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# ADVENTURES OF EXPLORATION

General Editor :  
ERNEST YOUNG, B.Sc.

## BOOK I

# FINDING THE CONTINENTS

BY  
SIR JOHN SCOTT KELTIE, LL.D.

*Formerly Secretary to the Royal Geographical Society*

AND

SAMUEL CARTER GILMOUR

*Formerly Travel Editor of THE FIELD*

SECOND EDITION

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# Adventures of Exploration

General Editor :

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*Formerly Headmaster of the County School, Harrow*

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*"Philip's' Human Geographies"*

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## PREFACE

THE purpose of these Supplementary Readers is to quicken interest in Geography by stories of adventurous travel. They are not intended to serve as a history of exploration, but it is hoped that they will afford an idea of some of the main steps by which knowledge has been gained, first of the World as a whole, and then of the separate continents outside Europe.

We are grateful to the Royal Geographical Society for permission to reproduce portraits from the Society's collection; to Mr. Edward Heawood, M.A., the Society's Librarian, for reading the proofs and placing at our disposal his unrivalled knowledge of geographical literature; and to Mr. A. A. Sainsbury, B.A., Headmaster of the Council School at Northwood, for much practical help in other ways.

J. S. K.

S. C. G.

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# FINDING THE CONTINENTS

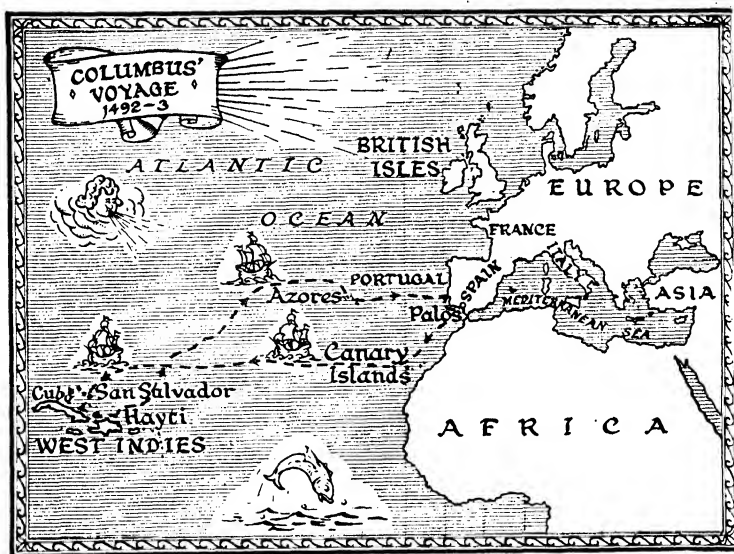
## I. HOW COLUMBUS FOUND AMERICA

OVER four hundred years ago there lived a brave and clever Italian sailor, named Christopher Columbus, who wanted to make a new and daring voyage.

Travelling in those days was difficult and dangerous. There were no railways or motor-cars or steamers. Rich people rode on horse-back and poor people went on foot. The roads were very bad, and travellers often met with robbers and wild beasts. The only ships were little sailing ships, and they used to keep close to the land.

Very few people who lived in Europe knew anything about other parts of the world. They

## 2 HOW COLUMBUS FOUND AMERICA



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knew that in Asia, far away to the east, were great and rich countries called the Indies. Gums and spices, pearls and gold were brought from there partly by land, on the backs of slow-moving camels, and partly by sea; and merchants who traded with the Indies told stories of the wealth of those countries which made men eager to find new and safer ways of getting there.

Columbus thought about these things a great deal. He believed that the world was

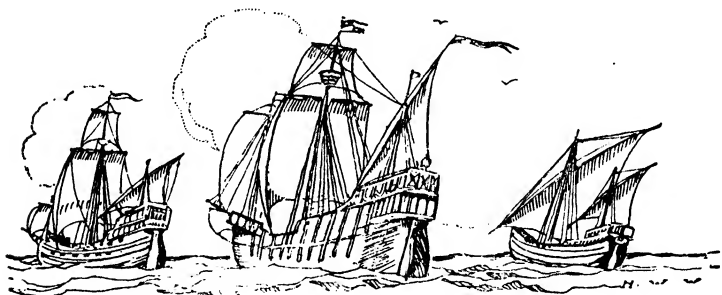
## HOW COLUMBUS FOUND AMERICA 3

round. We know that he was right, but four hundred years ago few people believed it. Columbus thought that, if he was right, men could reach the Indies by going west as well as by going east, because a ship could sail round the world either way. But no one then living had been very far west to see what was there. On that side of Europe lay an unknown ocean, and when Columbus talked of sailing across it he could not, for a long time, persuade anyone to help him.

At last the King and Queen of Spain said that they would help him. They made him Admiral of three little ships, and in August, 1492, he sailed away from a Spanish seaport called Palos. The ship in which Columbus sailed was named *Santa Maria*, which means Holy Mary. The other two ships were named *Pinta* and *Nina*. Many of the sailors were afraid and did not really want to go. Three days after they had started, the *Pinta's* rudder became loose. Two of the sailors had broken it, hoping to make Columbus

## 4 HOW COLUMBUS FOUND AMERICA

turn back. On the next day the *Pinta's* captain was able to mend it so that they could go on; but it would not work properly, and Columbus made up his mind to stop at some islands called the Canaries, belonging to Spain, to fix a new rudder. When the ships reached



THE SHIPS OF COLUMBUS.

the Canaries, it took three weeks to mend the *Pinta*. Then they all started again.

The voyage into the unknown ocean had now really begun. Every day Columbus reckoned up the miles that the ships had gone, but he did not tell his men how far they were from home, because he knew they would be afraid. One night there fell from the sky into the sea a "wonderful flame of fire" some miles

## HOW COLUMBUS FOUND AMERICA 5

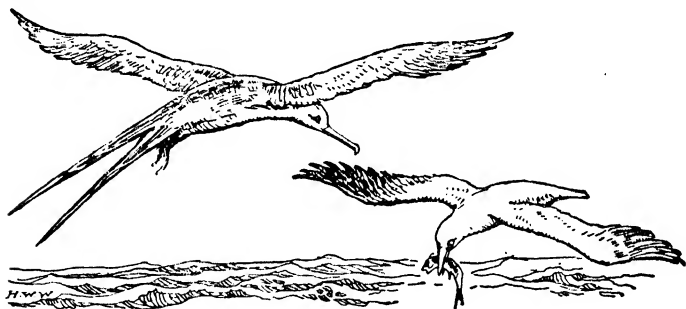
away from them, and the timid sailors took it for a sign to go back ; but the Admiral ordered them to sail on. The weather kept very fine, and for eleven days they did not have to alter the sails of the ships, because the wind was behind them all the way. Soon the sailors began to complain of this, and when at last the wind did blow against them Columbus was glad, “because the men had been much excited, at the thought that in these seas no wind ever blew in the direction of Spain.”

One evening, at sunset, nearly three weeks after they left the Canaries, the captain of the *Pinta* cried out that he could see land. The Admiral and his crew on the *Santa Maria* gave thanks to God on their knees. The crew of the *Nina* climbed up the mast and into the rigging, and said that they too could see land. Columbus ordered all three ships to sail in that direction all night ; but next day they were disappointed to find that what they had thought to be land was only clouds.

For the next few days there was very little

## 6 HOW COLUMBUS FOUND AMERICA

wind and the ships hardly moved. The sea was so calm that sometimes the sailors were able to swim by the side of the ships. They saw many birds. One kind was the man-of-war bird, and another kind the booby. When the man-of-war bird sees some boobies



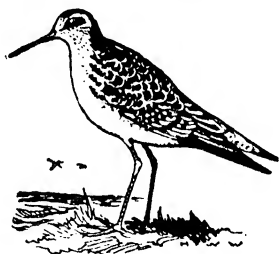
MAN-OF-WAR BIRD ATTACKING BOOBY BIRD.

that have caught a fish, he attacks them and makes them give it up to him. The booby moves slowly and sometimes seems stupid; that is why he is called a booby. One of the ship's boys hit a booby with a stone.

The King of Spain had promised a reward to the man who should first sight land. The *Nina* was the fastest of the three ships and sailed on ahead of the others, hoping to gain

the reward. One morning at sunrise a flag was hoisted at her mast-head and a gun fired, this being the signal that Columbus had ordered to be given if they saw land. But again they were disappointed, and this time the sailors said that they would go no farther.

Columbus cheered them up as best he could, and they went on for three more days. On the third day they saw some little birds called sandpipers, and, floating in the water, a small branch covered with berries. That night, about 10 o'clock, Columbus himself saw a light. It looked like the light of a candle rising and falling, and the Admiral felt sure that land was near. He told the men to keep a good look-out, and to the one who should first really see land he promised a silk doublet (a kind of jacket), besides the King's reward.



▲ SANDPIPER.

At 2 o'clock in the morning the *Pinta*, which was ahead of the Admiral's ship, made the

## 8 HOW COLUMBUS FOUND AMERICA

signals that land was found. Columbus stopped the ships, and they all waited for daylight. At dawn, to their great joy, they saw the sandy shore of an island, and running about on it were naked savages who had come to look at the ships. After a ten weeks' voyage land was found at last !

Columbus ordered out a boat, and went ashore with the captains of the three ships and some gentlemen who had been sent with him. They fixed a tall pole in the ground and raised the royal flag, and Columbus claimed the island for the King and Queen of Spain, naming it San Salvador (Holy Saviour).

At first, when Columbus landed, the natives had run away, but soon they came back. The colour of their skins was light brown. They had never seen white people before, and they thought that Columbus and his men had come from heaven. The Admiral gave some of them red caps, glass <sup>beads</sup> to put round their necks, and other presents, which pleased them very much. Afterwards they swam to the

## HOW COLUMBUS FOUND AMERICA 9

ships' boats with parrots, skins of cotton, and many other things. The sailors gave them glass beads and small bells in exchange.

Columbus wrote down in a book the things he did and saw on his voyage, and this is what he wrote about the natives :

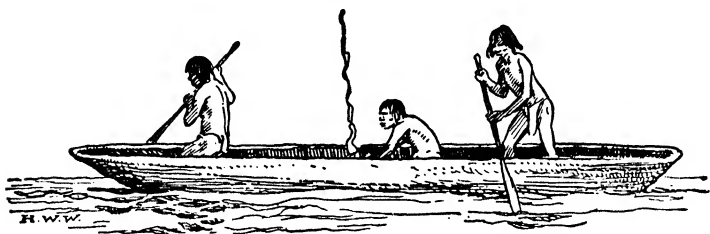
“ The people of the islands go about quite naked. They have handsome bodies and very good faces. Their hair is short and coarse, almost like the hair of a horse's tail. They are the colour of the people in the Canary Islands, neither black nor white. Some paint themselves white, some red ; some paint the whole body, some only round the eyes, others only on the nose. They know nothing of weapons, for I showed them swords and they took them by the blades and cut themselves.

“ These people came to the ships in their canoes. Each <sup>little</sup> canoe is made out of the trunk of a tree and is all of one piece. Some of them hold forty to forty-five men, others are smaller, and some only large enough to hold one man. They are driven along with a paddle like a

## 10 HOW COLUMBUS FOUND AMERICA

baker's shovel and go at a wonderful rate. If the canoe upsets, the men all begin to swim and to bale out the water.

"I saw that some of them had a piece of gold fastened in a hole they have in their nose, and by signs I was able to make out that to the



CANOE MADE OUT OF THE TRUNK OF A TREE.

south there was a king who had great cups full of gold."

When he heard about all this gold, Columbus felt sure that he had reached the Indies on the eastern side of Asia. He was really quite wrong. The island which he had reached was not part of Asia, but near to another great continent about which the people of those days knew nothing. Afterwards, when they began to know something about it, they called it America, and that is what we call it to-day.

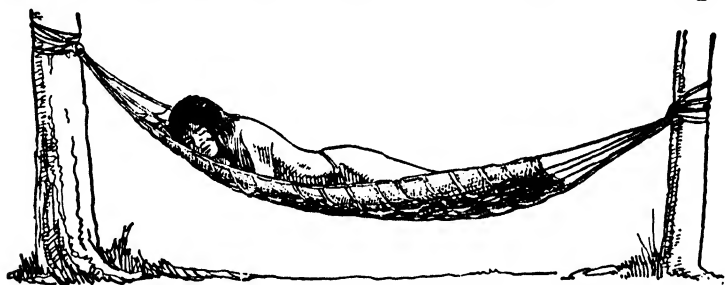
## HOW COLUMBUS FOUND AMERICA 11

Though Columbus did not know that he had led the way to a new continent, he was eager to find the land about which the natives told him, where the king had great cups full of gold. When he sailed from San Salvador he took with him seven of the natives to show him the way. He hoped that they would learn the Spanish language, and so be able to tell the natives of other islands what he wanted to say to them.

Columbus found many islands and claimed them all for the King and Queen of Spain. One of them he named Fernandino after the King, and another Isabella in honour of the Queen, and the next he came to he called Juana, after Prince Juan, their only son. The native name of this last island was Cuba, and that is its name to-day. It is the largest of all the islands in that part of the world. The natives whom Columbus had taken with him from San Salvador were afraid of the people of one of the islands. They called them Caribs, and said they ate people.

## 12 HOW COLUMBUS FOUND AMERICA

Though he did not find much gold, Columbus found spices and gums, and he saw many strange things. For beds the natives had cotton nets, called "hamacas," or, as we now say, hammocks, each of which was hung between two posts. Among the plants growing in the islands were some with roots like large



A HAMMOCK.

radishes. These roots were called yams, and from them the natives made bread which they roasted; it tasted like chestnuts. Another strange thing they had was a weed, the leaves of which they rolled up and smoked. Nowadays we call it tobacco.

Ten weeks were spent in cruising among the islands, and during this time the *Pinta* left the other two ships. Just before Christmas

## HOW COLUMBUS FOUND AMERICA 13

they came near a big island which we now call Hayti. Columbus went to bed tired out, for he had not had any rest for two days and a night. As it was calm, the sailor who steered the ship left the tiller in charge of a boy. At midnight the current carried the



YAM PLANT AND ROOTS.



TOBACCO PLANT.

ship on to a sand-bank. The boy cried out and the Admiral at once went on deck. He ordered the master of the ship and others to launch a boat and try to haul the ship off the sand-bank. The men launched the boat, but instead of obeying orders they rowed for safety to the *Nina*, which was a mile and a half

## 14 HOW COLUMBUS FOUND AMERICA

away. The *Nina* would not take them aboard but sent them back, and another boat with them. It was, however, too late to save the ship. All they could do was to take out the stores. The king of the island sent canoes to help carry the stores ashore, and everything was put for safety in some empty houses.

Columbus had now only one ship, the *Nina*. He made up his mind to leave some of his men on the island and to return home, taking with him the natives from San Salvador to show to the King and Queen of Spain. Before this, many of the sailors had asked leave to stay; but he would not have left them if his ship had not been wrecked. He ordered a tower and fort to be built so that they might be quite safe, and before he left he gave a feast, to which he invited the king and his chiefs. After the meal he told them that his men would be good friends with them and help them against their enemies, the Caribs, if they should come. He ordered some guns to be fired, and when the people heard the explosion they all fell to the

ground in fear. The Admiral also ordered a sham fight between the ships' crews. All this was done to teach the natives that the men who were left behind were friends, but that they could fight if attacked.

Two days after Columbus started to go home in the *Nina* he met the *Pinta*. Both ships then went on together. On their way they passed islands which they had not seen before, and at one island Columbus sent his men ashore to obtain yams for food. When the boat reached the shore there were fifty men behind the trees. They had bows and arrows and heavy wooden swords. The sailors landed, and tried to buy the weapons for beads and bits of coloured cloth. After selling two bows, the Indians did not want to part with any more, and there was a fight. The Spaniards wounded two of the men, and then they all fled.

Columbus was sorry, because he did not wish to quarrel with the natives, but he thought that perhaps these were some of the Caribs,

## 16 HOW COLUMBUS FOUND AMERICA

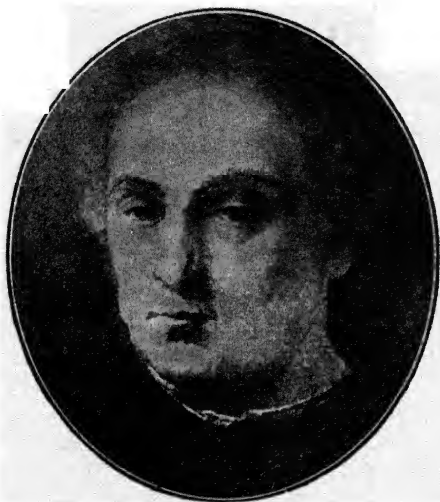
and if so, it might be a good thing to have made them afraid of the Spaniards. The two ships went on again, but both of them were leaking, and one of the *Pinta's* masts was strained so that the men could not hoist the sails, and the *Nina* had often to wait for her.

In the middle of February the ships began to meet with bad weather. The wind and the waves were terrible, and the little vessels were in danger of being dashed to pieces. Soon they were blown apart and lost sight of each other. Columbus feared they would all be drowned, and no one would ever know where he had been or what he had found; so he wrote the story of the voyage on a sheet of parchment, asking any one who might pick it up to deliver it to the King and Queen of Spain. This parchment was rolled in cloth soaked in wax to keep out the water, and fastened tightly. Then it was put inside a wooden barrel, and thrown into the sea.

At last the *Nina* reached some islands called the Azores, belonging to Portugal.

## HOW COLUMBUS FOUND AMERICA 17

Columbus took shelter in a harbour there till the storm was over, and then he set sail again. The weather was fine for a day or two, but soon the wind began to blow hard and the ship



*From a photograph of an old oil painting.*

CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS.

was in great danger. One night there was a terrible storm and all the sails were split. Columbus and his men thought that the *Nina* would be swamped by the sea. The wind seemed to lift the ship up in the air, and all round them were rain and lightning ; but the

## 18 HOW COLUMBUS FOUND AMERICA

*Nina* did not sink. For a week she struggled on in the stormy weather, and at last she came to Portugal. The Portuguese people told Columbus that such bad weather had never been known before. They thought it was a miracle that the ship had escaped.

After a week, the *Nina* was ready to sail again, and three days later Columbus reached Palos, the Spanish port which he had left the year before. There were great rejoicings at his return. The King and Queen of Spain sent for him to come to the Court. They listened to the story of his adventures and treated him with great honour. Every one admired the Indians, the parrots, the yams and strange plants, the gold, and all the other wonderful things he had brought home, and when he talked of making another voyage westwards across the ocean people were eager to go with him to the new lands which he had found.

Three more voyages he made to these new lands, and he had many more adventures. Some of the Spaniards were jealous of him and

## HOW COLUMBUS FOUND AMERICA 19

treated him very unkindly. They told the King and Queen untruths about him, and on one of his voyages they put iron chains on him and sent him home a prisoner. Afterwards he was set free, and the King and Queen were sorry that he had been treated so badly. But he did not have a very happy time, and he died soon after he arrived home from his last voyage in 1506.

Columbus never reached the Indies, but he did something far more important. He led the way to a new continent, so big and wonderful that when men came to know more about it they spoke of it as a "New World." Yet because he thought that he had reached the Indies, the native people of America are still called Indians, and the islands which he found are called the West Indies.

## II. VASCO DA GAMA'S VOYAGE TO INDIA

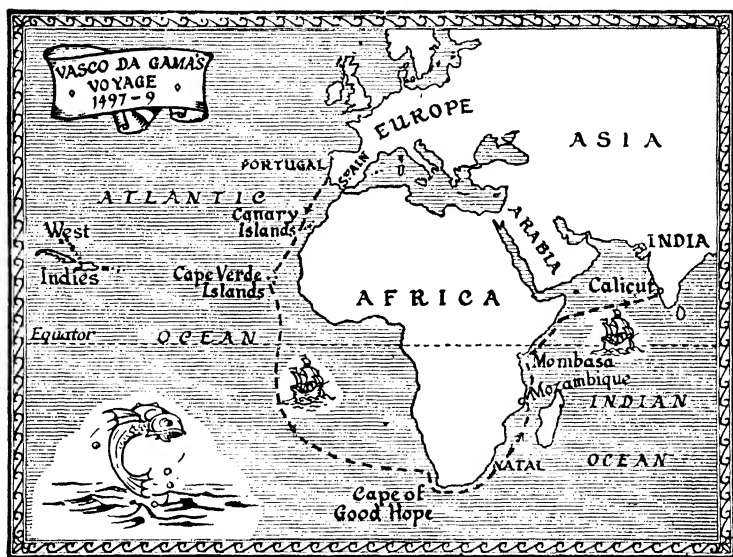
WHEN Columbus sailed across the Atlantic Ocean and found America, he was trying to reach India by a new way. Other people wanted to find a new way to India, because it was a very rich country, and they wanted a share in its trade. Some of these people lived in Portugal, and they had been trying for a long time to find a way to India round the south end of Africa. They did not know how far they had to go to reach the south end of Africa. In order to find out they sent ships along the west coast of Africa.

At first these ships went only a little way. Next time they went a little farther, and then farther still, until at last, in 1488, one ship's captain named Bartholomew Diaz sailed round the south end of Africa. The weather there was very stormy. At the point where the coast

turns round was a big cape, and this he called the Cape of Storms. But when he returned home the King of Portugal said "No, we will not call it that. It is the turning-point which we have been trying to find for such a long time. We will call it the Cape of Good Hope, because we hope that next time our ships will be able to sail round South Africa and go on to India."

The leader of the next voyage was Vasco da Gama. He sailed from Portugal with four ships in the month of July, 1497, five years after Columbus found America. Vasco da Gama's voyage began badly. The ships lost sight of one another in a fog, but they met again at the Cape Verde Islands, off the north-west coast of Africa. There the sails were mended, and fresh supplies of meat and water and wood were taken on board.

When all was ready they set sail again at the beginning of August. Instead of keeping near the coast they sailed out into the ocean right away from land. Day after day, week after week, and month after month, the ships sailed



*George Philip & Son, Ltd.*

on, first to the south, then to the east, until at the beginning of November they came in sight of the African coast not far from the Cape of Good Hope. A few days later Vasco da Gama found a bay where the ships were sheltered from the wind, and there he stayed for a week while the sailors cleaned the ships and mended the sails.

When they went on shore they saw a native collecting wild honey. Hiding behind the bushes the sailors crept close up to him, and

then sprang out and caught him. Vasco da Gama took him back to the ship, gave him plenty to eat and dressed him in nice clothes, and next day sent him home.

After that, a number of natives came down to the shore. They were the kind of people who are called Hottentots. They were short people, of a yellowish-brown colour, and dressed in skins. When they went home, one of Vasco da Gama's men went with them to find out where they lived. They had not gone far along the coast when



A HOTTENTOT.



A SEAL.

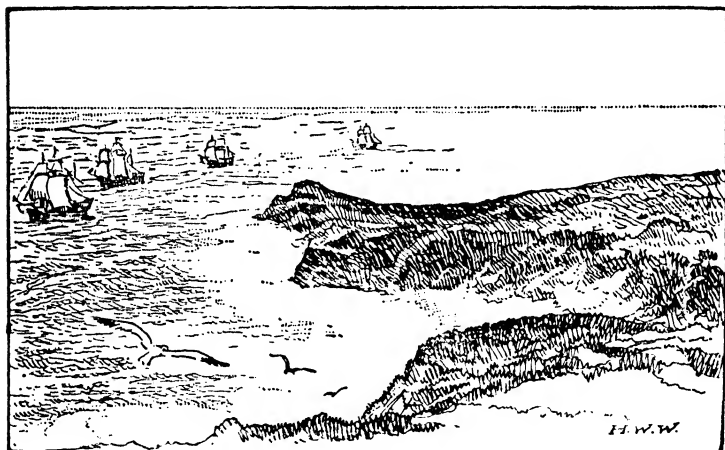
the natives caught a seal. This they cooked, and they gave some of it to the man who had

gone with them. But after the meal they showed that they did not want him to go any farther. They did not seem to be really friendly, so he went running back, and when he came near to the ships he called out to his friends.

Vasco da Gama saw him and went in a boat to fetch him on board. While the man was stepping into the boat the natives came running out from behind the bushes and began throwing spears. Vasco da Gama himself and three or four others were wounded. They had no weapons with which to defend themselves, because they had not expected to be attacked, so they rowed back to the ships as quickly as they could, and a few days later they sailed away.

At first the ships could not sail round the Cape of Good Hope because the wind was against them. After a few days the wind changed, and they were able to get round. Then Vasco da Gama sailed eastwards, landing here and there along the coast and trying

to make friends with the natives. By Christmas time he had passed along the south coast of Africa, and was beginning to go north again up the east coast. The country past which he was sailing on Christmas Day he named



VASCO DA GAMA'S SHIPS BOUNDING THE CAPE OF GOOD HOPE.

“Natal,” which means “Birth,” in honour of the birth of Jesus Christ. That country is now part of British South Africa and is still called Natal.

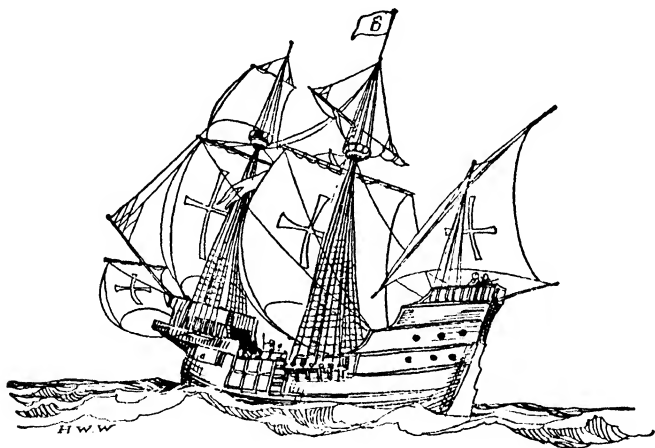
As he went on, sailing along the east coast, Vasco da Gama found that the people were different from those he had met near the

Cape of Good Hope. They were tall, black people, and went about nearly naked. Some of them had big copper rings on their arms and legs. Others had pieces of tin stuck through their lips.

Farther on the people were different again. They wore cotton clothes, and they had heard about other parts of the world. At first they were friendly with Vasco da Gama, but afterwards they tried to do him harm. Why was this? Well, in those days the trade of the countries round the Indian Ocean was mostly done by people called Arabs. Some of these Arabs lived in East Africa, and some of the Arab ships were at the places which Vasco da Gama visited. The Arabs did not want to have people coming from Europe to share in their trade, so they pretended that Vasco da Gama and his men were robbers, and they made trouble wherever he went.

At a town called Mozambique, Vasco da Gama hired two natives to pilot his ships along the coast. When he wanted to sail away one

of the pilots was not on board, so Vasco da Gama sent two boats filled with men to fetch him. They were met by five or six boats full of natives carrying bows and arrows who told them to go back. Vasco da Gama had some



VASCO DA GAMA'S FLAGSHIP.

little cannon in his boats, and he ordered these to be fired at the natives. When this was done the natives fled as fast as they could.

Afterwards Vasco da Gama sailed away from Mozambique; but the wind did not help him, and he had to go back to get some more water.

The natives wanted to stop him from landing, but he fired his cannon at them and they ran away. Then a party of men went on shore and fetched the water. Next day an Arab came near the ships and said in a sneering way, "If you want water come and fetch it." When he heard this, Vasco da Gama ordered out his boats to attack the town. Large numbers of Arabs were on the beach, armed with spears and swords and bows and slings, and they began slinging stones at the boats. But several shots from the cannon soon made them run behind some wooden fences which they had put up. One of the Arabs was killed before they reached shelter, and some of the shots went over the fence and killed another man.

When Vasco da Gama thought he had taught them a lesson, the boats went back to the ship, and a few days later he sailed away. After following the coast northwards for about a week he came to another town called Mombasa. The king of this place sent him a present of a sheep and a lot of oranges and

lemons and sugar-cane. The king also promised to let him have all the things that he wanted. But Vasco da Gama did not think that the king and his people were really friendly. Nor did he trust his pilots.

In those days prisoners were often tortured, and Vasco da Gama ordered boiling oil to be dropped on the pilots to make them tell if there was any plot against him. Then they said that the people of Mombasa wanted to capture the ships in revenge for what had been done at Mozambique. After this they were tortured again, and to escape the torture they threw themselves into the sea, though their hands were tied. That night the people of Mombasa made a secret attack on the ships. They came out very quietly in boats, slipped over the sides, and swam to the ships, hoping to take those on board by surprise. But the sailors who were on watch saw them, and they swam away again.

After leaving Mombasa, Vasco da Gama went a little farther along the coast, and then

sailed away from Africa across the Indian Ocean to India. For over three weeks he saw no land; but at last, in the month of May, he came to a big city called Calicut. The people of this city had light-brown skins.

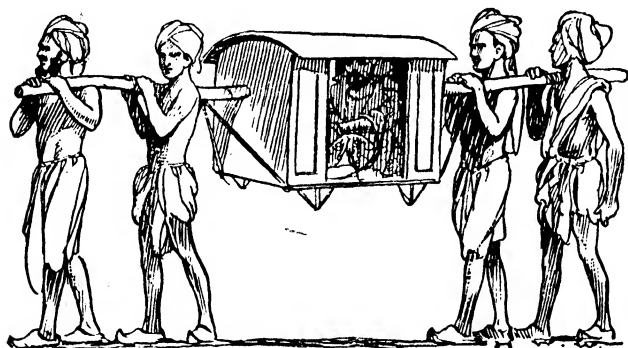


NATIVES OF CALICUT.

Some of them had big beards and long hair. Others cut their hair short or had their heads shaved, except for a little tuft of hair on the top. They were naked down to the waist, but below their waists they wore cotton clothes. The men had gold ear-rings, and the women had gold ornaments round their necks, brace-

lets on their arms, and rings set with jewels on their toes.

Vasco da Gama sent two of his men to the King of Calicut to say that he had come by sea all the way from Europe with a message from the King of Portugal. The King of

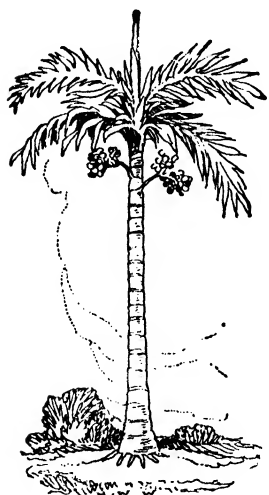


A PALANQUIN

Calicut replied that Vasco da Gama was welcome, and he sent one of his officers to bring him to the palace. So Vasco da Gama put on his best clothes and took with him thirteen of his men, and they set off. He rode in a kind of carrying-chair called a palanquin ; it was like a big box with windows, and had a seat inside. One pole stuck out in front and

another behind, and by these poles it was carried on men's shoulders.

All the way there were big crowds of people eager to see the strange white men.



ARECA TREE.

Mothers brought their children out of their houses to look at them, and when at last Vasco da Gama and his men came to the palace the crowd was so great that they had to force their way in.

The king was in a small court, lying on a couch covered with a cloth of green velvet. On top of the cloth was a mattress, and on this a cotton sheet, very white and fine. The couch had a sort of roof over it, and this was all gilt. Beside the king was a gold basin, so large that a man could only just reach round it with his arms. In this basin were some fruits called areca-nuts, of which Indian people are

very fond. The king was chewing these nuts, together with the leaves of the betel pepper, and in his hand he had a big gold cup into which he used to spit out the blood-red juice.

Vasco da Gama's men were told to sit down on a stone bench and were given bananas and other fruit to eat. Vasco da Gama himself was bidden to tell his message to the courtiers, and they would repeat it to the king ; but he said that the message was from one king to another, and he would not tell it to any one else. So then the king went with him into another room and they had a friendly talk.

It was late at night when Vasco da Gama and his men left the palace. The rain was pouring down, and they had a long way to go to the house where they were to stay. When they arrived they found some of the Portuguese sailors, who had come from the ships with a bed for Vasco da Gama and with many other things which he had picked out as presents for the King of Calicut. There were twelve pieces of striped cloth, four scarlet hoods, six

hats, four strings of coral, six washhand basins, a case of sugar, two casks of oil, and two of honey. Next day two of the king's officers came to look at these presents and made great fun of them.

"These things are not fit to offer to a king," they said. "You tell us that you have come from the King of Portugal, and yet you have nothing better than that to give! The poorest merchant would not offer such a mean present. We cannot ask our king to look at these things. If you want to give him anything it ought to be in gold."

Vasco da Gama felt very sad when he heard this, because he had nothing better with him. He said that as they would not allow him to send the presents to the palace he would go to see the king and then return to his ships. Next morning he went to the palace, and was kept waiting four hours before the king would see him. The king did not like it because he had not received a present, but he was a little more friendly when Vasco da Gama gave him the

letters which he had brought from the King of Portugal. He told Vasco da Gama that he could go back to his ships, bring on shore such goods as he had, and sell them to the king's people.

Next day Vasco da Gama and his men went back to where the ships were, but when they reached the shore the king's people would not let them go on board. They were taken to a house and kept as prisoners until Vasco da Gama sent for the goods which he had for trading. Then they let him return to his ships.

No one at Calicut would buy the goods, except at very low prices, and after a time Vasco da Gama thought he had better go back to Portugal. He sent a messenger to the king to say that he was leaving, and the king was angry with the messenger ; the Arab traders had told him that Vasco da Gama and his men were bad people. The king would not let the messenger return to the ship, and he said that he would not let Vasco da Gama go unless he paid a large sum of money. Then Vasco da Gama made prisoners of some Indians who

had gone to look at his ships, and said that he would sail away with them unless his messenger was sent back. When the king heard this, he sent the messenger back to Vasco da Gama



*By courtesy of the Royal Geographical Society.*

VASCO DA GAMA.

with a letter for the King of Portugal, saying that Calicut was rich in cinnamon, cloves, ginger, pepper, and precious stones, and that the merchants would exchange these things for gold, silver, corals and scarlet cloth. ,

Before Vasco da Gama sailed away he set free some of his prisoners, but not all of them, because his goods were not given back to him. He had not gone far when his ships were becalmed, and the Indians, seeing that he could not get away, sent seventy boats to attack him. But a storm arose and carried the ships out to sea, and so the homeward voyage began.

By this time it was the end of August, and Vasco da Gama had been away from Portugal for more than a year. It took him another year to get home, and when he arrived there was great joy in Portugal. He had done what the sailors of Portugal had been trying to do for so long; he had found a way to India by sea, and the King of Portugal rewarded him with money and honours. It was a great discovery that he had made, and afterwards the Portuguese did a big trade with Africa and India. They captured the towns that were unfriendly, and they are still masters of some of the places they conquered in those old days.

### III. THE FIRST VOYAGE ROUND THE WORLD

AFTER Columbus had found America and Vasco da Gama had found a new way to India, many other sailors went on long voyages across the oceans, hoping to find new lands. The King of Spain helped some, the King of Portugal helped others. The two kings had agreed to divide the world into two halves. All the new lands found in one half were to belong to Spain, those in the other half to Portugal. But places on the other side of the world were so far away that people were not sure whose half they were in, and sometimes both kings claimed the same places.

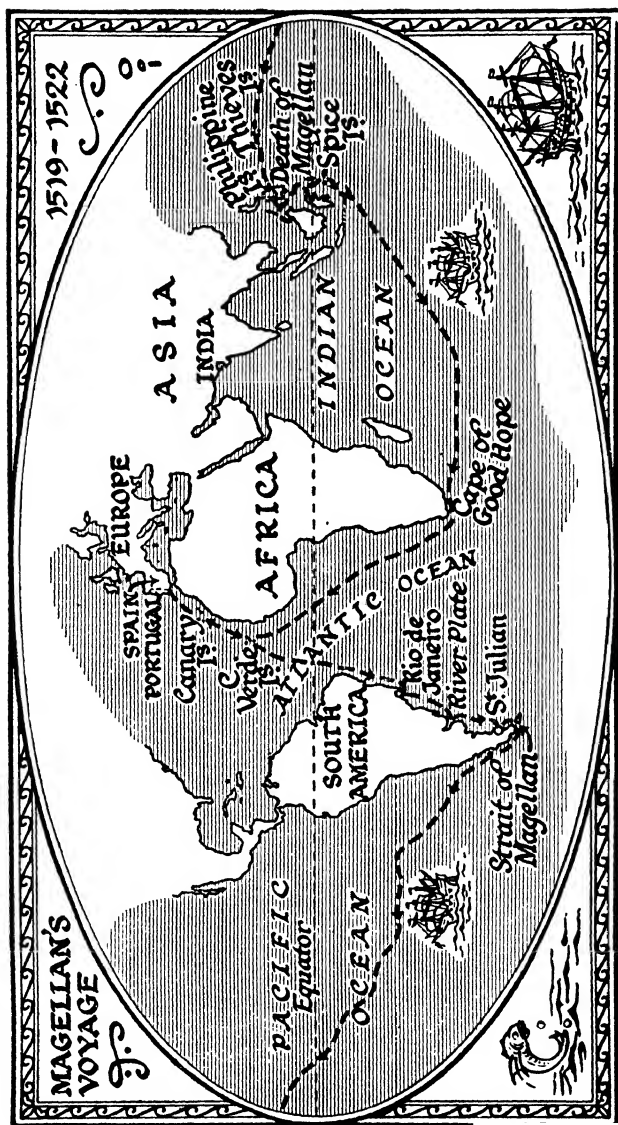
The Portuguese, sailing round the south end of Africa and then eastward, as Vasco da Gama had done, came to some islands far away beyond India, at the south-east corner of

Asia. Spices were grown in these islands, so they were called the Spice Islands. The King of Portugal said that they belonged to him ; but the King of Spain thought that they were in his half of the world, and when a Portuguese captain, named Ferdinand Magellan, who had left his own country, offered to go to find out, the King of Spain was glad to give him men and ships for the voyage.

Magellan believed that he could reach the Spice Islands by a new way. Men had learned by this time that the lands found by Columbus were part of a new continent, which they called America. Magellan hoped to find the southern end of America, and to sail round it into the ocean on the other side. If he could do that, he thought, he would be able to go on sailing west till he came to the Spice Islands.

That was his plan. Now let us see how it worked out.

Magellan set sail from Spain in August, 1519. He had five ships and 237 men. At first he went the same way that Columbus



George Philip & son, Ltd.

had gone, and reached the Canary Islands in September. There he took in food and other things he wanted. One of the things was pitch, which would be useful in case of a leak in any of the ships. When he sailed from the Canaries he did not go west, as Columbus had done. First he steered south, keeping near the coast of Africa, and then south-west, across the Atlantic Ocean. In December he reached the coast of South America at a place which is now one of the most famous ports in the world, called Rio de Janeiro; it is the chief city of the great country of Brazil.

Magellan and his men thought that they had come to a very strange country. They had crossed the Equator, and so had reached a part of the world where it was not the middle of winter at Christmas time, but the middle of summer. The food which the sailors bought from the natives was quite different from their own food. Among other things they bought pine-apples, which they had never seen before, and a kind of food which tasted like cheese,

which was found between the bark and the trunk of a tree. The people of the place were brown, and went about naked, except for a circle of parrots' feathers round their waists. Most of them had three holes in their lower



A NATIVE WOMAN OF  
BRAZIL CARRYING HER  
CHILD.

lips in which they hung small round stones as long as a finger. The women carried their children about in a sort of cotton net tied round the mother's neck.

On the day after Christmas Day, Magellan left this place and sailed on southwards, keeping along the coast all the time. After three weeks he came to a cape where the coast turned to the west. Magellan hoped he had found the southern end of America, and ordered the ships to sail westwards. But presently the water was found to be fresh, which showed they were in a river, though it was so wide that the other side could not be seen. They had

to turn round and sail out of the mouth of the river, which they found afterwards was fifty miles wide ; it was the great River Plate. Then they continued their voyage to the south.

By this time it was getting much colder, not only because summer was over, but because every day they were sailing nearer to the South Pole. At the end of March they found a sheltered spot on the coast, where Magellan made up his mind to stay for the winter. For two months they saw nobody. Then suddenly one day they saw a very big man on the shore, dancing and leaping and singing. He was so tall that the sailors seemed only to come up to his waist, and his voice was "loud as a bull's." They made friends with him, and afterwards they saw other natives.

These natives were all very big men, like the first one. They wore clothes made of skins sewn together, and also skin boots. The boots made their feet look big and clumsy, so Magellan called them "Patagons," a Spanish

word which means "big feet." In the English language the name has become "Patagonians."

Magellan captured two of the Patagonians to take home with him to show to the King



A PATAGONIAN.

of Spain. He sent some of his men ashore to bring their wives to the ship to go with them, but the women ran away, and the men shot arrows at the sailors and killed one of them. The sailors had guns, but could not hit any of the giants, because they jumped from side to side, and never stood still in one place; and they could run faster than a horse.

Magellan stayed in this place, which he named St. Julian, about five months. He saw that the voyage would take longer than he expected, so he ordered that less food should be given to his men, in order that the supplies on board might last longer. The men did not

like this. They were jealous of Magellan, because he was a Portuguese, while most of them were Spaniards; so some of the ships' captains plotted to kill him. Magellan found out the plot, and put two of the leaders to death, and two he sent on shore to stay there. After this no one dared to disobey him.

When at last he sailed away from St. Julian, Magellan had only four ships, for one had been wrecked in a storm, though all the crew and the stores had been saved. They sailed southwards for over sixty miles, and found a river where they stayed for two months, living on fish which they caught, and adding to their stock of food and water.

Three days after they left the river, they came to a big opening in the coast, and once more Magellan hoped he had found a strait leading to the other side of America. He ordered the ships to enter the opening, and they found it was bordered by high mountains covered with snow. They sailed along it for some distance, and met with very stormy

weather. Magellan waited in a bay with two of his ships, while the other two went on to try to find out if it really was a strait. The crew of one of the ships in front wanted to go back to Spain, and at night they took prisoner their



MAGELLAN'S SHIPS SAILING THROUGH THE STRAIT WHICH HE  
DISCOVERED.

captain, who was Magellan's cousin ; then they turned back in the darkness and sailed away home.

The three ships which were left went on, and to the great joy of all on board, after sailing for more than a week, they came to the ocean on the other side. Magellan had found the strait he was seeking. It has ever since been called the Strait of Magellan.

They now began their voyage across the unknown ocean to find the Spice Islands. They sailed on and on for nearly four months without being able to get any fresh food anywhere. They saw one or two islands, but no one lived on them. They had to eat old biscuits which were full of insects, and which the rats had nibbled and made dirty, and their water was yellow and stinking; they even ate the rats, and wished they could catch more of them. One of the giants they had brought with them died; so did many of the sailors.

All this time the wind blew them steadily across the ocean to the north-west. There were no storms, and the sea was so peaceful that "Pacific Ocean" seemed to be just the right name for it.

They had gone many thousands of miles when at last, nineteen months after leaving Spain, they came to some islands on which people were living. Here they tried to buy fresh food. But the people were not friendly, and came into the ships and robbed the sailors;

they also stole a small boat which was fastened by a rope to Magellan's ship. This behaviour made Magellan angry, and he went on shore with forty armed men, burned fifty houses,



COCONUT TREE.

and killed seven of the natives. He got back his boat, and then returned to the ship and sailed away. He called the islands the Ladrone Islands, which means "Thieves' Islands."

After sailing for ten days, he came to a group of big islands which we call the Philippine Islands. Here the people were friendly, and Magellan ordered tents to be put up on shore, where the sick sailors could rest. The natives brought them fish, palm wine, bananas, and coconuts. The fruit and the milk from the coconuts made the sailors much better.

Magellan stayed here ten days, and gave the

natives red caps, looking-glasses, combs, bells, ivory, and other things. In return they gave him rice, fruit, fowls and other food. He also took on board plenty of fresh water, and when all was ready he set sail once more.

After a short voyage, he came to another island in the Philippines called Massawa. At first the islanders were afraid of the strangers ; but Magellan had a black slave, whom he had brought with him from Spain, who could speak their language. Magellan told him to say that they had come as friends and only wanted to buy food. He invited the king of the island on board his ship and gave him a robe of red and yellow cloth and a fine red cap. He told the king he wished to be a brother to him, and the king answered that he wished to be a brother to Magellan. So they became very friendly.

When the king went ashore he took some of Magellan's officers with him. They found that the people lived in houses built in trees. To get into them they had to go up ladders.

There were gold mines in the island, and all the king's cups and dishes were made of gold; he wore large gold ear-rings, and he had a dagger with a gold handle.

Magellan stayed at this island for a week.



A NATIVE HOUSE IN THE PHILIPPINES.

Before he left, he set up a cross on the highest mountain. When he sailed away the king went with him to guide his ship to an island called Zebu, which he said was the best place for getting

food. When the ship reached the port of Zebu, Magellan ordered his men to hang out flags and to fire off all the guns. Then he sent a messenger on shore to the king, with the black slave to explain what was said. They found the people much frightened at the noise

of the guns, but they told them not to be afraid ; it was a sign of friendship, and was in honour of the King of Zebu.

When they told the king that they wanted to buy food, he said that every one who came to his island had to give him money. They answered that they came from a very great king, who would not like them to give money to any one else. They would make peace with the King of Zebu if he wished, or war if he wanted war. Next day the King of Massawa went ashore and told the King of Zebu how the white men had been friends with him, and the King of Zebu then agreed to make peace with them. He sent some of his chief men to the ships with baskets full of rice, pigs, goats, and fowls, as a present to the captain.

Magellan sent back a silk robe and cap, and some gilt glasses in a silver dish. His messengers found the king at his palace sitting on the ground on a mat made of palm. He was naked, except for a cloth round his waist and a silk wrap on his head. His face was painted.

He had a very heavy chain round his neck and gold rings in his ears. He was eating tortoise eggs out of two china dishes, and he had four cups full of palm wine, which he drank through a cane tube. He told the messengers that they might trade with his people, and he let them have a house to put their things in. They brought iron, cloth, and other goods to this house, and the natives gave them gold, rice, pigs, goats, and other food in exchange.

Magellan stayed at Zebu three weeks, and often talked with the king ; he taught him and his people about Jesus Christ, and they said they wished to be Christians, and so the king and queen and all the islanders were baptized, as well as some of the people of the islands near. Magellan told them that the King of Spain would be their Emperor. The King of Zebu agreed to this, and Magellan made him chief over the other islands.

The chief of an island near to Zebu would not agree to obey the King of Spain, so Magellan took three boats full of armed men to fight him.

Magellan had only sixty men, with helmets and breast-plates, and there were 1,500 of the islanders. They fought fiercely, and aimed



*By courtesy of the Royal Geographical Society.*

FERDINAND MAGELLAN.

at the legs of the soldiers where there was no armour. A poisoned arrow struck Magellan in his leg, and he ordered his men back to the boats. He killed a native with his lance, and then tried to draw his sword, but could not

because of a wound in his arm. His enemies saw this, and all rushed at him, knocked him down and stabbed him to death. Eight of his men were killed and nearly all were wounded, and they had hard work to get back to their ship. It was a sad day for them all. They had lost their leader, and so they chose another captain and began to make ready to sail away at once.

Magellan's black slave did not like the new captain, and he went on shore and told the King of Zebu that he would show him how to gain the three ships for himself. The king listened to the traitor. He sent word to the new captain that he wished to give him some jewels as a present for the King of Spain, and asked him to come with his officers to dinner. The captain went with twenty-four others, but almost as soon as they landed they were taken prisoners and killed. Those who had been left in the ships heard their cries, and were filled with grief and rage, but they could not save them, and, in haste to escape

## ROUND

themselves, they pu d  
sailed away.

There were not enough men on board to sail the ships properly, so when they were safely away from Zebu they divided the men and stores between two of the ships and burned the third. All were anxious to return home; but while they were at Zebu, before Magellan was killed, they had learned that they were near the Spice Islands which they had come so far to find, and so they tried to reach them. They passed many other islands, where they bought food and saw many things which were strange to them, and at last, to their great joy, twenty-seven months after they started from Spain, they reached the Spice Islands.

The kings of these islands were friendly, and gave them all the help they needed. The chief spice grown there was cloves, and they loaded the ships with them. On the day when they were ready to sail away it was found that one of the ships was leaking badly. They

could not mend her, and had to leave her behind with all her crew.

The other ship started on her long voyage home. The crew met with many dangers



CLOVE PLANT.

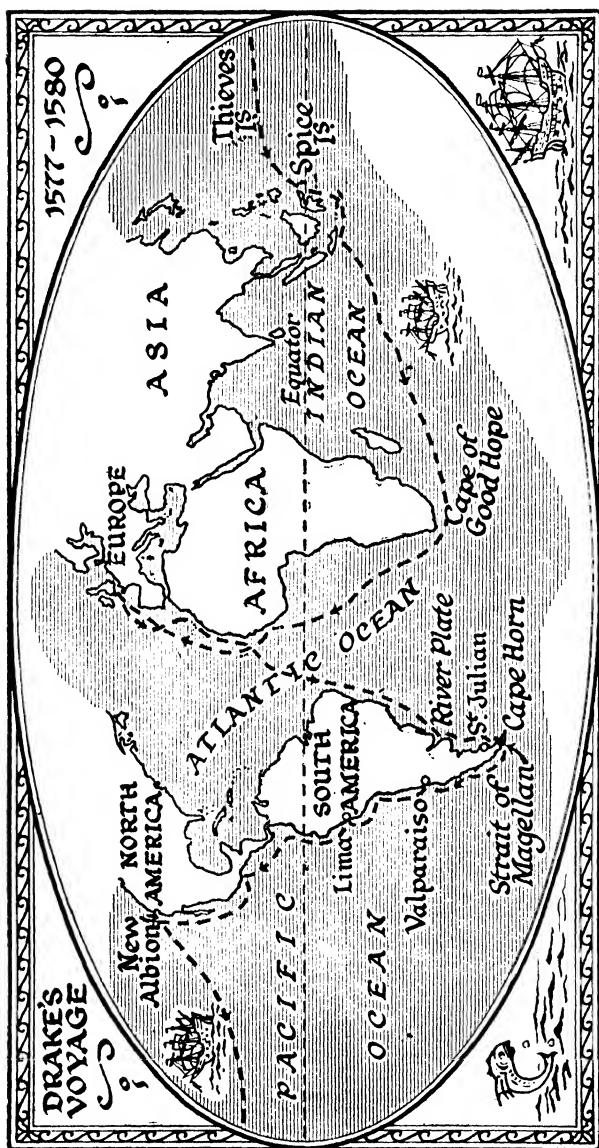
from unfriendly people and storms on the way. They sailed right across the Indian Ocean and along the south coast of Africa. It took them nine weeks to round the Cape of Good Hope, because the wind was against them. For the last two

months of the voyage they were nearly starved. At last, in September, 1522, with only eighteen men left out of sixty who had started from the Spice Islands, they arrived back in Spain. They had been away over three years, and had sailed all round the world, a thing which no one had done before.

## IV. THE FIRST ENGLISH VOYAGE ROUND THE WORLD

NEARLY seventy years after Columbus found America a famous Queen of England named Elizabeth began to reign. Up to that time very few Englishmen had been to look for new lands, but during Queen Elizabeth's reign many bold and daring voyages were made by English sailors. They wanted to find new lands, and they wanted to share in the rich trade of the lands which had been found by the Spaniards and the Portuguese.

The Spaniards were getting a great deal of gold and silver from America and they wanted to keep the trade for themselves. If they caught English ships near America they treated the English sailors very cruelly. This did not stop the English from sending ships to America ; it only made them angry and eager to fight the Spaniards.



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One of the most daring of the English sea captains was Sir Francis Drake. Once, while on a voyage, he landed at a part of America where it is very narrow. Some natives led him to a tall tree that stood on the top of a hill. He climbed up, and from the top of the tree he saw, for the first time in his life, the Pacific Ocean. No English ship had ever sailed on that ocean, and Drake made up his mind that some time he would do so.

Five years afterwards he was ready to go. His plan was to sail through the Strait of Magellan, then northwards along the west coast of America, and home again round the north end of America, if he could find a way. Queen Elizabeth and some of his friends helped him, and in December, 1577, he set sail from Plymouth with five ships and 164 men.

On Christmas Day the ships reached the West Coast of Africa, and there Drake stopped to get water, wood and food. A boat was sent ashore, and one of the sailors, named John Fry, jumped out. No sooner had he done so than he

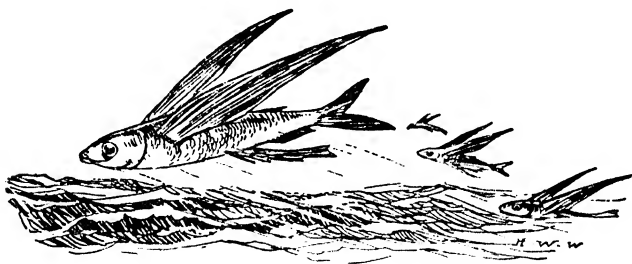
## 60 THE FIRST ENGLISH VOYAGE

was seized by a crowd of natives who had been hiding. They thought that the ships belonged to the Portuguese, who had treated them badly, so they took Fry prisoner and drove the boat away. Next day Drake landed more men to rescue Fry ; but he could not be found, and the ships had to sail away without him. Afterwards, when the king of the country found that Fry was not one of the Portuguese, he sent him home to England.

Drake kept near the coast of Africa as long as he could, looking for places where he might fill up his water barrels before starting on his long voyage across the Atlantic Ocean. He did not get as much water as he would have liked, but he captured a Portuguese ship laden with wine, which the sailors drank instead. He took the ship with him, so that now he had six ships.

After leaving Africa they sailed for sixty-three days without seeing land. All this time they were in the hottest parts of the world. They were short of water ; but there was some

rain nearly every day, and they caught this and used it for drinking. They saw many strange creatures ; among them were some flying-fish. These fish leap out of the water when other big fish are chasing them, and fly in the air by means of their fins, which reach from their head



FLYING-FISH.

to their tail. Many fell on board the ships, and the sailors ate them.

Drake reached the River Plate in South America in April, and from there he sailed southwards along the coast. Day after day there were storms, and the ships often lost each other. At one place Drake thought he had found a good harbour, and he went in a boat to see that there were no rocks at the

## 62 THE FIRST ENGLISH VOYAGE

entrance. Suddenly a storm came on, and a thick fog, and he was very nearly lost. He managed at last to reach his own ship, but all the others had been blown out of sight by the storm. Next day he lit great fires on shore to guide the ships back. They all came back except two.

It was a long time before these two were found again, and Drake thought he would manage better without so many ships, so he burned one and broke up two others, after everything had been taken out of them. He now had three ships left. He was near Port St. Julian, where Magellan had stayed, and he went there to give his men a rest and to get fresh water and food before going any farther.

When the ships were safely anchored, Drake went ashore with a party of his men to look for water. He met some of the very tall and big natives that Magellan had found there. They were the people that Magellan had named Patagons (or as we say, Patagonians), meaning the people with big, clumsy-

looking feet, because they wore boots made of the skins of animals.

These natives were so big that they looked like giants. At first they seemed friendly. One of Drake's men shot an arrow from his bow which went twice as far as any of the giants could shoot, and this pleased them. Another of Drake's men tried to do the same thing, but he broke the string of his bow. This made the giants think that it was useless, and when Drake was returning to his boat they got behind him and his men and shot at them. The man with the broken bow was shot through the chest. Another, who had a gun, tried to fire it; but the powder was damp and it would not go off, and the giants shot and killed him.

Drake told his men to hold their shields in front of them, pick up the arrows which were shot at them, and break them so that the giants could not use them again. Then, when he saw that the giants had shot off most of their arrows, he took the gun which would

not go off before, and this time he was able to fire it. He killed the giant who had begun the fighting. This frightened the others, who ran away, so Drake and his men went safely back to the ship.

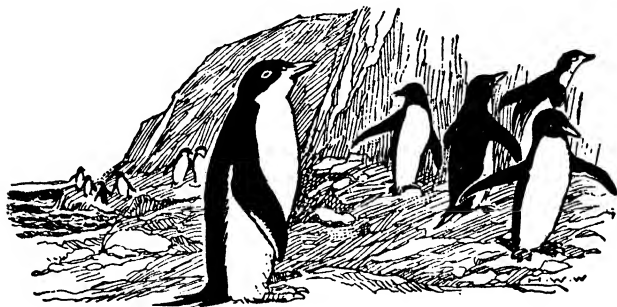
Drake's men believed that the giants acted in this way because they had been cruelly treated by the Spaniards. After the fight with Drake's party they never tried to hurt the Englishmen again.

Drake stayed at Port St. Julian two months. While he was there, one of his chief men, named Thomas Doughty, was said to be a traitor, trying to make the sailors rebel against their leader. Perhaps this was not true. Some people believe he was innocent, but had jealous enemies who told lies about him. We cannot tell now ; but Doughty was tried by the ship's company and found guilty, and Drake ordered his head to be cut off.

It is strange that this should happen at the same place where Magellan had punished his rebel captains. The spot where they had been

hanged was found by the English sailors when they went to bury Doughty.

At the end of two months the ships had plenty of food, water, and wood on board, and Drake set sail for the Strait of Magellan. He reached the entrance in the middle of



PENGUIN.

August, and it took a fortnight to sail to the other end. On the way he found an island where there were so many birds that the sailors were able to kill three thousand in one day. We now call these birds penguins. Drake's men found them very good to eat.

August is winter time in the south, and the weather was bitterly cold, so as soon as they

## 66 THE FIRST ENGLISH VOYAGE

had reached the Pacific Ocean Drake turned northwards to get to warmer parts. But he met with fierce winds and terrible storms, which blew his ships to the south a long way **past** the Strait, right to the very end of **America**, which is now called Cape Horn. The storms lasted fifty-two days, and many times Drake and his men thought they would all be drowned. Drake lost sight of the two other ships. One of them went back through the Strait of Magellan and sailed home, but the other was never seen again.

Drake was now left with **only** his own ship, the *Golden Hind*. He did not know at that time what had become of the others, but he had told them where to meet him if they lost sight of one another, and when the storms were over he sailed up the west coast of **America** to reach this place. After being blown about so long he was very short of both water and food. Presently he came to an island, where he hoped to get fresh supplies and perhaps some news of his ships. He went

ashore, and the natives gave him fruit and two fat sheep. They said that if he came next morning he could have plenty of fresh water and other things which he wanted.

Next morning the boat was rowed to the land again. Two of the sailors went on shore to fetch the water in barrels; but they had not gone far when they were suddenly attacked by the natives and killed. At the same time a party of five hundred natives, who had been hiding, began to shoot arrows at the boat. Every one of the sailors was wounded. Drake was shot in the face and the head. He had not enough men to fight, so he ordered the sailors to row back to the ship as fast as they could. This was not very fast, because there were many rocks about; but at last they reached the ship. Drake would have liked to go ashore again with more men and punish the natives, but the sailors were worn out with hard work in the long storms, and he wanted to find the other ships, so he thought it was better to go on, and in the afternoon he sailed away.

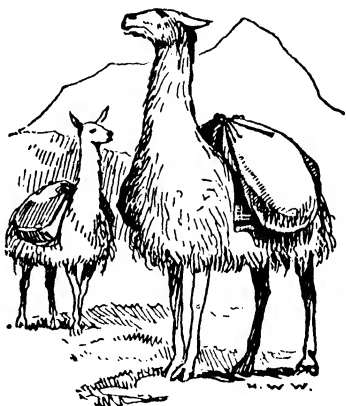
## 68 THE FIRST ENGLISH VOYAGE

Not long afterwards they met a native fisherman in a little boat. The fisherman offered to show them where they could get all the food and water that they wanted, and he guided them to a port called Valparaiso. This was a rich city, with storehouses full of wine, and plenty of good food. There was also a ship in the harbour laden with wine, and with much gold on board, besides a great gold cross set with precious stones. The city and the ship belonged to the Spaniards, and Drake's arrival caused great excitement. The Spaniards were not ready to fight, and so Drake and his men helped themselves to everything they wanted. They took all the gold, and enough wine, bread, and bacon to last them a long time.

After this they sailed on along the coast, searching every place they came to for the missing ships and for water. At one place they found a Spaniard asleep with some bars of silver beside him. They did not wake him, but took the silver very quietly and then went

away, leaving him still asleep. At another place they met a Spanish gentleman driving along some animals which looked like sheep. These animals were not really sheep but llamas; they were bigger than our sheep and had longer necks. The llamas were laden with leather bags, and when the bags were opened they were seen to be full of silver. The silver weighed 800 pounds.

Drake and his men met several Spanish ships, and took from them their gold and



LLAMAS.

silver. At one port, named Lima, there were thirty Spanish ships. Drake arrived there at night, and the Spaniards could not see that he had only one ship. They were too frightened to try to defend themselves, and Drake was able to do what he liked. Out of one of the ships he took much gold, silk, and linen. Next

## 70 THE FIRST ENGLISH VOYAGE

morning he sailed away. He had heard that a Spanish ship laden with gold and silver had left Lima a fortnight before, and he wanted to try to catch her.



*From an old engraving.*

**SIR FRANCIS DRAKE.**

For a long time Drake kept straight on, not stopping anywhere. At last, after fourteen days, he saw a sail in the distance. It was the ship he was seeking. The Spanish captain saw

the *Golden Hind* coming and stopped to wait for her, thinking she was a friend. When Drake came nearer, the captain saw that the *Golden Hind* was English, and tried to sail away; but it was too late. Drake shot away one of the masts of the Spanish ship, and then he easily caught her up. The Spaniards gave in, and Drake found that he had taken a rich prize indeed. She had on board gold and silver, jewels and precious stones, and other things worth a very great deal of money. Drake made the Spaniards give them all up, and after five days he let the ship go.

By this time he had lost hope of finding his other ships. He still wanted to find a way round the north of America, and he knew that he must get there before the summer was over, or it would be too late. So he made up his mind to go straight on northwards. He kept right away from the coast, and sailed on for seven weeks. The weather had been warm, but suddenly it changed, and became very cold. Drake thought at first that it would soon

## 72 THE FIRST ENGLISH VOYAGE

get warmer again, but instead it became colder. The ropes were frozen stiff, and the sailors could hardly work the ship. Things were made worse by a great storm. The ship was steered towards the land for shelter; but after the storm the weather turned very foggy, and the *Golden Hind* was in danger all the time.

When the fog cleared away, the wind was against the ship, and Drake had to give up the idea of sailing farther north. He turned south again, and this time he kept near the coast. The weather was still very cold, though the time of year was midsummer. He went back a long way, and at last he found a harbour where he rested for a month, while the *Golden Hind*, which had sprung a leak, was being mended.

The natives of this place thought that Drake and his men were gods. The men bowed down to them, and the women tore their own faces with their finger-nails and flung themselves on the hard ground, thinking that

it would please the strangers. Drake tried hard to make them understand that he and his companions were only men and did not wish to be worshipped. The native chief asked Drake to stay and be their ruler. Drake said



SIR FRANCIS DRAKE LANDING ON THE SHORES OF NEW ALBION.

he could not do that; but he hoisted the English flag and told the people that the country belonged to Queen Elizabeth. He called it New Albion.

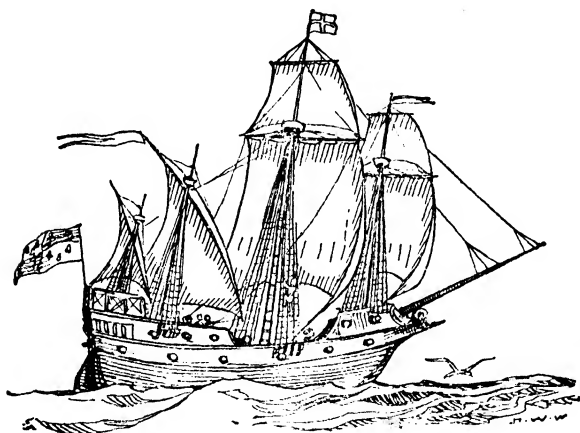
When at last he sailed away the natives wept bitterly, and they climbed the hills to see the last of the *Golden Hind*. Drake dared

## 74 THE FIRST ENGLISH VOYAGE

not go back by the Strait of Magellan, because the Spaniards were sure to be looking for him, so he made up his mind to return home by the way that Magellan had gone. He sailed across the Pacific Ocean, and for sixty-eight days saw nothing but sea and sky. He passed the Thieves' Islands, and the people there came after his ship in their canoes, but he frightened them off by firing a big gun.

Soon afterwards, Drake reached the Spice Islands, where the people were friendly and let him have water and food. After leaving these islands he passed between many other islands. He had to pick his way, for there were many hidden rocks in the sea. Just when he thought that they were out of danger, and when the *Golden Hind* was going along with all sails set, the ship stuck fast on a rock. The men threw overboard all they could to lighten the ship; but she did not float, and they began to think they would never see their homes again. They pumped out the water which had leaked into the bottom of the ship, but still

the *Golden Hind* stuck fast. They had to stay there for a whole day and a night. On the second day the wind changed. It had been blowing the ship against the rock ; but now it blew the other way, and to their great joy it



THE "GOLDEN HIND."

made the *Golden Hind* lean over and fall off the rock.

With thankful hearts they went on again, sailing westwards across the Indian Ocean. They were still a very long way from home, and they had to stop at places on the way for water and food, but they met no more enemies.

Two years and five months after they started from England, they reached the south coast of Africa. It took them another month to get round the Cape of Good Hope, and then came the long voyage northwards through the Atlantic Ocean. At last, in September, 1580, they reached Plymouth, which they had left nearly three years before. They were the first English sailors, and the *Golden Hind* was the first English ship, that had ever sailed round the world.

## V. WITH BARENTS IN THE ARCTIC

WE have read how the Spaniards tried to keep others from sharing in their trade with America. They and the Portuguese also tried to keep others from going to the Indies, either round the south of America or round the south of Africa. So men tried to find new ways of reaching the Indies.

Some thought they could sail round the north of America. Others tried to sail round the north of Europe and Asia. One of these was William Barents. He lived in a little country called Holland, not far from our own. The people who live there are called Dutch. William Barents was a Dutchman. Twice he sailed north, seeking a way round Russia to the Pacific Ocean, but each time he had to turn back after going as far as a large island called



*George Philip & Son, Ltd.*

Nova Zembla, because the way was blocked by great masses of ice floating in the sea.

In 1598 some rich merchants of Holland decided to let him try again. Two ships were made ready for the voyage, and Barents was

sent on one of them as chief pilot. He was not the captain, but he was really the leading man. He knew all about the dangers of the voyage, and he took on board everything that he thought would be useful. He chose for the crew strong, healthy men who would be able to bear the cold, and who were not married. He knew that very likely they would be away from home a long time, and he did not want men who would worry about their wives and children.

Only in summer-time was there a chance of finding a way through the ice in the northern seas. The two ships started from Holland in the month of May, and the Dutchmen sailed northwards till they reached the corner of Europe which is called the North Cape. They were now in the Arctic Ocean. Every day the day grew longer and the night shorter, till on June 1st there was no night at all. The sun did not set but went round the sky. So it did for many days after. Nowadays we speak of this part of the world as "The Land of the Midnight Sun."

## 80 WITH BARENTS IN THE ARCTIC

Before very long, although it was summer-time, the ships met ice floating in the sea. When the sailors on deck first saw it in the distance they thought it was a flock of white swans, and they called to the others to come on deck to see it. But as they sailed nearer they found out what it really was. Soon there was so much ice that they had to turn aside and sail along its edge to get past it. Once they sailed between two great masses as if they were in a strait between two islands.

Every day they went farther north and met more and more floating ice. After fourteen days they came to a very large island. Here they saw pointed mountains; so they named the land Spitsbergen, which means, in the Dutch language, "Pointed Mountains."

They were at anchor near the shore one day when they saw a large white bear swimming in the sea. The men from both ships chased the bear in three little boats. They kept hitting and cutting her with their axes till they made their arms ache, but the bear

was so strong that she swam four miles before they tired her out. Once she nearly upset one of the boats with a stroke from her big paws. When at last the bear was dead the men took her on board the ship and skinned her. The skin was thirteen feet long.

The ships could not find a way through the



A POLAR BEAR SWIMMING IN THE ARCTIC OCEAN.

ice north of Spitsbergen, so they turned back for a time and then tried again. This time they went different ways, because Barents and the captain of the other ship could not agree which was the best way. Barents sailed to the east. He often had to turn aside in order to keep clear of ice; but in July he came to Nova Zembla. The sea that he had crossed is now called Barents Sea.

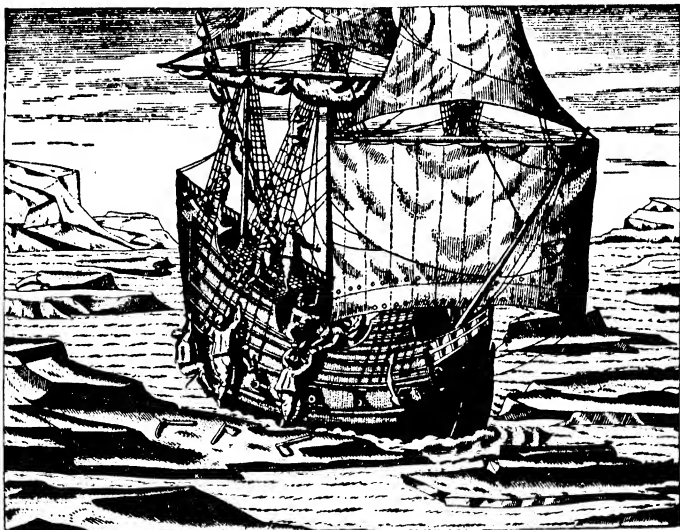
## 82 WITH BARENTS IN THE ARCTIC

There was so much ice along the coast of Nova Zembla that Barents had to go very slowly. At one place he could not go forward at all for a fortnight. Many times the men were afraid the ice would close round the ship and crush her, and they had to work very hard to save her; but at last Barents guided her safely round the northern end of the island.

They now sailed eastwards, which was the way they wanted to go, but everywhere they found the sea blocked by ice, and they had to turn back. They anchored in a place which they named Ice Haven. Next day a great storm drove the ice so hard against the ship that the rudder was broken, and a little boat which was by the side of the ship was crushed to pieces.

The weather was better the day after, and they sailed away again; but soon the ice drove them back, and they saw they would not be able to go on. Then they tried to sail home by the way they had come, but by this time the ice was drifting all round them. Three

of the sailors went on the ice to try to clear a way for the ship, and they nearly lost their lives. The ship was blown away from them, and they were afraid that they might be left



*By courtesy of the Hakluyt Society, from De Veer's "Three Voyages of Barents."*

HOW THE MEN ESCAPED FROM THE ICE INTO THE SHIP.

on the ice to die. They had a wonderful escape. The wind blew the ship towards them again, and as she sailed by they jumped up, caught hold of some ropes, and so climbed safely on board.

## 84 WITH BARENTS IN THE ARCTIC

Soon the ice was packed so closely round the ship that she was lifted up four or five feet out of the water. The ice kept cracking and bursting with a great noise, and it squeezed the ship so hard that all on board were afraid she would be crushed to bits. At last they gave up all hope of returning home that year. They saw that they would have to spend the winter in Ice Haven, and they decided to build a house on the land, where they would be safer than in the ship.

Some of the sailors who were sent to search the land found many trees lying along the shore. They must have drifted across the sea, for there were no trees growing in Nova Zembla. The wood of the trees was very useful for building the house, and for firewood. The sailors fetched it in sledges to the place which had been chosen for the house.

They had to work in bitterly cold weather. When a man put a nail into his mouth, as carpenters do, it froze to his lips and tongue, and when he took it out again it drew blood

and had ice on it. Sometimes the men had to leave their work to fight bears. They shot one and stood it up on its hind legs, and soon it was frozen quite stiff. The cold weather made some of the men ill, and the ship's carpenter died. The ground was so hard that they could not dig a grave, so they covered his body with stones.

They took the boards from the deck of the ship to make the roof and the sides of the house. There were no windows; the only openings were a door and a chimney with a barrel on top. At last the house was finished, and after carrying in all their stores and a man who was too ill to walk, they went to live in it.

While they had been working on the house the days had been getting shorter and the nights longer. After November 4th the sun did not rise at all, and the darkness lasted until the end of January, when they saw the sun again. To give them light inside the house, they had a lamp in which they burned oil from the fat of the bears they had killed.

## 86 WITH BARENTS IN THE ARCTIC

All the time they suffered terribly from cold and sickness. To keep out the cold they spread the ship's sail on the roof, and put large stones on it to keep it from blowing away. While they were doing this one of the men caught a white fox—the first they had seen. They found it very good to eat.

Outside the house they set traps for foxes, and in this way they caught a good many. They were glad of this, for the flesh helped to make their food last out, and they made warm caps out of the skins. They had to share out their food very carefully. For drink they had melted snow and a little wine which they had brought with them.

The weather became colder and colder, and there were many snow-storms. Often the wind was so strong that they could hardly breathe in it, and then they dared not go out of doors. But they were forced to go out sometimes to get wood for their fire, and to see if any foxes had been caught in the traps. Many times they had to dig the snow away before they could

find either the wood or the traps. Whenever they could, they went down to the ship to see if she was safe. Once they caught a fox there, and they saw the footmarks of bears. The bears did a great deal of damage to the things in the ship.

It was so cold that the captain undid two of the parcels of clothes belonging to the merchants who had sent the ship, and gave the clothes to



AN ARCTIC FOX.

the men, who put them on over their own. They wore three or four pairs of socks, and they made themselves boots of sheepskins, because their own shoes were frozen too hard to put on. One day they washed their sheets; but when they tried to dry them at the fire the sheets became frozen stiff on the side away from the fire, so that if the men had tried to open them they would have torn them, and

## 88 WITH BARENTS IN THE ARCTIC

they had to put them back into the boiling water to thaw.

They shut up the door and the chimney to keep out the cold, but this made the house so full of smoke that they could not bear it ; yet all the time there was ice two inches thick on the inside of the walls and roof. If they sat by the fire to warm their feet their socks were often burned ; but they knew this by the smell of scorching before they felt the warmth, and their backs were covered with white frost as if they had been out in the snow.

More and more snow came and nearly buried the house. On Christmas Day they heard foxes running over the roof. When they wanted to get out they had to dig the snow away from the door, and they cut steps in it leading up to the top as if they lived in a cellar. Often they climbed out through the chimney because that was the easier way.

Whenever the weather was fine enough they went out and played games with balls and sticks ; but this was not often. They had to

stay indoors most of the time without exercise, and they had no fresh food except the flesh of the animals they killed. Living in this way, in the cold and darkness, many of them fell ill. They became thin and weak, with swollen joints and bleeding gums. It was the illness called scurvy, from which explorers often suffer when they have to go for a long time without fresh food. The doctor thought that it would be better for all of them if they could have a bath. He took a tall wine barrel and cut a hole in the side so that they could get in. This made a good bath when water was poured in. It helped to keep them well; but in January one of the men died and they buried him in the snow.

At the end of January they saw the sun again for a little while, and afterwards the light lasted a little longer every day. This cheered them up, and they began to hope for warmer weather. It was a very long time coming, and they grew very tired of waiting. Sometimes the wind drove the ice away from the land and

## 90 WITH BARENTS IN THE ARCTIC

they saw open sea. This made them think that they would soon be able to sail away; but after a day or two the wind would change and drive back the ice worse than before. Often they were disappointed in this way. All the time the ice round the ship never moved, but only piled up higher and higher.

At last the men begged the captain to let them go away in the two boats belonging to the ship, and at the end of May he agreed to let them try. It was terribly hard work to get the boats ready. They were not really suitable for a long sea voyage, and the men were all weak and ill. When at last the boats were ready, the men cut a road over the rough ice from the ship to the water; next they dragged the boats over the ice, and then carried their things to the boats in sledges.

Before leaving Ice Haven, Barents wrote a letter telling how they had waited all that time but saw no hope of getting the ship out of the ice, and so had made up their minds to sail away in the boats to save their lives.

This letter was put inside a powder-horn and left in the house. It was found there nearly three hundred years afterwards by an Englishman who visited Ice Haven.

Barents and another man had been ill for



*By courtesy of the Vereenigde Drukkerijen, Amsterdam, from  
Dr. A. D. de Vries's "Oud-Holland."*

WILLIAM BARENTS.

a long time, and had to be carried to the boats. The others made them as comfortable as possible, and they all sailed away in the month of June. They soon found themselves in great danger. More than once they had to pull

## 92 WITH BARENTS IN THE ARCTIC

the boats on to the firm ice near the shore to save them from being crushed by the moving ice farther out. At one place the sailors found some birds' eggs which they gave to Barents and the other sick man; but they both grew worse, and a few days later they died. The others were all very sorry, for they loved Barents, and no one could guide them so well as he had done.

Now they had to go on without him. It was a very difficult and dangerous voyage. Sometimes there was no way round the ice. Then they had to pull the boats up on to the ice, take all the things out, drag the boats and the things across the ice until they came to open water on the other side, put the boats back into the water, and load them up again. Sometimes they did this two or three times in one day. Once when they were doing it the ice gave way under them and they nearly lost their boats altogether. It was terribly hard work, for most of them were very weak and ill, and another of the men died.

After five weeks they left the ice behind, and then they were able to sail along faster. At the end of July they met some fishermen from Russia who gave them food. This meeting cheered them up a great deal, for it was the first time they had seen any one but themselves for thirteen months. Soon afterwards they came to a place where they found a plant called scurvy-grass. This was good for people with scurvy, and after they had eaten some of it they felt better.

Early in August they came to the coast of Russia. They knew that their way homewards lay along it to the west, but they had much farther to go than they thought, and their food was nearly all gone. For more than a week they had nothing but two ounces of bread a day and a little water. All the time the wind was blowing hard against them. Then the two boats lost sight of each other in a storm, and each thought the other was lost.

While they were apart, each boat met a Russian ship. The ship's captain sold them

## 94 WITH BARENTS IN THE ARCTIC

food and told them the right way to go, and five days afterwards they found one another at a place where they had landed. There were people here who were very kind, and took them into their houses so that they could be warm and dry. For the first time in many months they had as much to eat as they wanted.

They rested at this place for a day or two, and then, after buying a stock of food, they set sail again. Soon afterwards, to their great joy, they met the Dutch ship from which they had parted the year before. This ship had spent the winter at home and had sailed north again in the summer. The captain of the ship took them on board, and they were very glad to leave their boats, in which they had sailed nearly 1,600 miles.

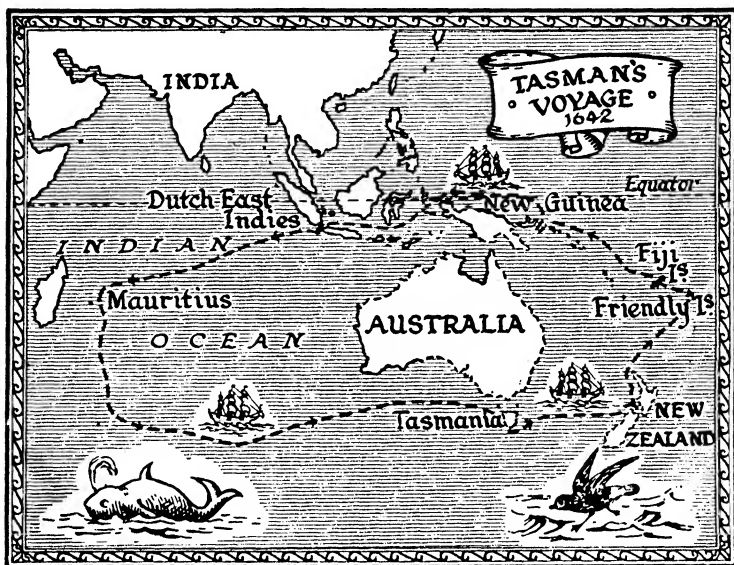
When the ship reached Holland, there was much rejoicing at their safe return, but all were sorry that William Barents, their brave pilot, had lost his life.

## VI. WITH TASMAN IN THE SOUTH SEAS \*

THE first sailors who found their way to Australia landed at only a few places on its northern and western shores. They did not know that it was a great island. Some clever people thought that probably it was an island, but others supposed it to be part of a very large continent, filling nearly all the southern half of the world.

The man who proved that Australia was surrounded by the sea was a Dutch sea-captain named Tasman. In the years 1642 and 1643 he made a voyage all round Australia. He did not sail along the coast, but kept a long way out to sea, except at one place ; that was at the south-east corner of Australia, where you will see on the map the island of Tasmania.

\* This story is not illustrated by a portrait of Tasman, as no authentic likeness is known to exist.



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It is called Tasmania now because it was found by Tasman ; but Tasman did not know that it was an island, and he called it Van Diemen's Land, in honour of a Dutchman named Van Diemen, who was then Governor of some islands in the East Indies where the Dutch had made themselves masters.

Tasman had a very long way to go before he found Tasmania. He started from the Dutch East Indies with two ships in the month

of August, 1642. First he went westwards to an island in the Indian Ocean called Mauritius and stayed there for a month, getting the ships in good order for the long voyage before him. Then he sailed away southwards and eastwards for many weeks, and at length he caught sight of the mountains of Tasmania.

It was now nearly the end of November. At first Tasman could not find a safe place to anchor his ships because the coast was very high and rocky and the sea was very rough. Just when he thought he had found a nice sheltered bay the ships were caught in a storm. The sailors had to take in the sails quickly, and the ships were blown out to sea so far that the land could hardly be seen. They struggled back again, and this time they were steered safely into a good harbour.

From the ships no people could be seen on the shore, and the place looked very lonely. Boats were soon lowered, and some of the sailors were sent on shore to see what they

could find. They took care to have their guns and swords ready, in case any savages were hiding among the trees, waiting to attack them. After a time the sailors came back to the ship, bringing with them vegetables and other things which they had found on the land. They told the captain that they had not seen any people, but they thought that they had heard voices and sounds like the music of a small gong.

In one place they saw two very tall trees about twelve feet thick, in which notches had been cut as if to form steps. They supposed that the natives had made these notches in order to climb up and rob the birds' nests in the tops of the trees. The notches were five feet apart, and the sailors thought that the people who used them must be very tall and strong. Many other trees had deep holes burned in them, and here and there holes had been scraped in the earth to make fireplaces. Clouds of smoke, too, were seen rising among the trees.

On the next day Tasman and some of his officers were rowed in boats towards the shore, taking with them a long pole and a Dutch flag. They wanted to hoist the flag as a sign that the land belonged to the Dutch. The wind was blowing hard and the sea was very rough.



THE DISCOVERY OF TASMANIA: THE SHIP'S CARPENTER SWIMMING  
ASHORE WITH THE FLAGSTAFF.

When the boat came near the shore the waves were so high that it was in danger of being dashed to pieces.

Tasman saw that he would not be able to land ; but he was not going to give up the task of hoisting the flag. The ship's carpenter was in the boat, and Tasman ordered him to jump

into the sea, swim to the shore with the pole and the flag, and set them up near four tall trees. This the carpenter did, and then swam back to the boat. He did not see any natives, but Tasman thought that they were watching all that was being done.

When the boat had been rowed back to the ship, Tasman set out to sail along the coast; but he had gone only a little way when the wind forced him to leave the land and sail away eastwards. After sailing for a week he came to more new land with high mountains along the coast. This was the west coast of the country that we call New Zealand. Tasman called it Staten Land. He thought that it was part of a great continent filling the southern end of the world.

After sailing northwards for several days along the coast of this new land, Tasman found a bay in which to anchor his ships. The people there were not so shy as those on Van Diemen's Land. They could be seen on the shore, and soon a party of them in two canoes paddled out

to the ships. They called out to the sailors in rough hollow voices and played tunes on a kind of trumpet. The sailors could not understand them, but two of the sailors tried to show friendship by playing tunes on their own trumpets. Then the people in the canoes paddled back to the shore.

On the next morning a number of boats full of natives came out to the ships. Every day Tasman wrote down in a book the story of what had happened on the voyage. This is what he wrote about the natives :

“ As far as we could see, these people were of ordinary height ; they had rough voices and strong bones. The colour of their skin was between brown and yellow. They wore tufts of black hair on the top of their heads, tied fast at the back, together with a large white feather. Their boats were made of two long narrow canoes set side by side ; over them were placed planks of wood or other seats. Their paddles were narrow and pointed at the end. With these boats they could go

very fast. For clothing some of them wore mats, others cotton cloth. Almost all of them were naked from the shoulders to the waist."

Two of the boats came near to the ships. Now and then the men in these two boats called out to each other. The sailors made signs to them to come on board and offered them pieces of white cloth and knives, but the natives would not come any nearer. Hoping to make friends with them in another way, the captain of the ship that was sailing with Tasman's ship ordered a small boat with seven men to go out to meet them.

As soon as the boat left the side of the ship the natives in one of the canoes began to paddle quickly towards it. The point of their canoe struck the boat in the middle, and before the sailors could do anything the natives attacked them fiercely with short thick clubs and paddles. Some of them were killed, and only three were able to escape. They swam to Tasman's ship and were picked up. The

natives took one of the dead sailors out of the boat into their canoe and threw another into the sea. Then they let the boat drift away.

When the sailors on the ships saw what had happened, they began to fire on the natives



THE DISCOVERY OF NEW ZEALAND: MAORIS ATTACKING TASMAN'S MEN

with their small guns, or muskets. The ship's cannon were also fired at the canoes; but the natives were so quick in paddling away that they reached the shore without being hurt. Tasman then sent another boat to fetch the one which had been attacked. In it were found one of the sailors who had been killed, and

another sailor who was so badly hurt that he died very soon.

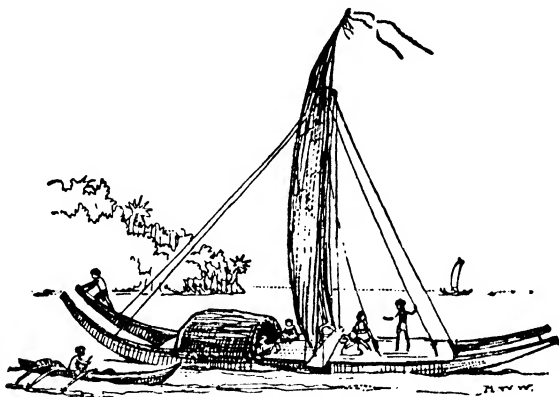
Tasman named the place where all this happened Murderers' Bay. As he could not make friends with the natives, he thought it best to leave at once. So he sailed away and soon came to what looked like a large bay. He was really in the strait, or narrow strip of water, which divides New Zealand into two main islands. Tasman himself thought that there might be a way out at the other end, and he made up his mind to look for it. He sailed about 120 miles, and then the land seemed to close in on both sides. This made him think that after all he was in a big bay and not in a strait, and so he turned back.

Tasman now wanted to get out into the open sea as quickly as he could, but he found himself in a trap. The wind and the tides were against him, and, try as he would, he could not make much headway. His ships were tossed about in the rough waters until at last he had to anchor near an island for shelter. There

he watched the sea currents and the tides very closely, and once more he began to wonder whether he was in a bay or a strait. The way the tides and currents were flowing seemed to show that there must be an opening at both ends, and that if he kept on he would find a way through to the open sea on the other side. He would, he thought, have another try to go on ; but before he could do so the wind changed, and he was forced to sail back the way he had come. He had been very near to finding the way between the two islands of New Zealand, but he had not quite succeeded, and more than a hundred years passed before any one else found it, as we shall see later.

Tasman now sailed northwards along the western coast of New Zealand. When he came to the end of the land, he steered into the open ocean, away from the eastern coast of Australia. He wanted, if he could, to visit some islands which had been found by another Dutchman, but he was worried about the position of his ships. He did not know exactly

where the islands were, and he did not know exactly where he and his ships were. In the end he did not find the islands he was looking for; but towards the end of January, 1643, he found some others which had never been seen



CANOES OF THE FRIENDLY ISLANDERS.

before by white men. These islands are now known as the Friendly Islands.

From the largest of the islands a small canoe with three natives in it came out to the ships. The natives wore no clothes and were of a brown colour. They called out to the sailors, but no one could understand what they meant. The sailors then held up some pieces of white

cloth, and presently they threw one piece into the sea. The natives paddled their canoe towards it; but by the time they reached the spot the cloth had sunk some distance below the surface. One of the natives at once dived into the sea to get it. He was under water for a long time; but at last he came up with the cloth and climbed back into the canoe. He seemed very pleased with his prize, and over and over again he placed it on the top of his head.

Seeing that the sailors did them no harm, the natives grew bold enough to go close to the ships. They were given presents of nails, beads, and a looking-glass. These also they kept putting on their heads to show that they were pleased with them. More natives now came out from the shore. Some of them had their bodies painted black and wore a necklace of large leaves. None of them wore any clothes, except for a cloth round the waist. They were very eager to sell coconuts, and some even swam out to the ships bringing coconuts with them. The sailors played music

on a flute, a trumpet, and a violin, and the natives thought it very wonderful.

One old chief and a few of his people went on board Tasman's ship and bowed down before the captain as a sign of respect. He was taken into Tasman's cabin and given presents ;



FRIENDLY ISLANDERS.

but when the time came for him to leave, it was found that one of the natives was carrying off a pair of pistols and a pair of slippers which had not been given as presents.

These things were taken away from the native ; but Tasman did not want to make trouble, so he did not punish the thief. Afterwards the chief sent to Tasman a present of a pig and some coconuts and vegetables.

As the natives seemed quite friendly, Tasman sent some sailors on shore to try to

get some fresh water. The sailors found that the natives had never seen or heard of tobacco or smoking, and they were puzzled when the sailors smoked. They had no weapons and were not at all warlike. Tasman went to see the chiefs and gave them a white flag as a sign of friendship. Each chief put the flag on the top of his head to show that he was Tasman's friend, and every one was very happy.

Though they were so friendly, some of the natives used to steal things from the sailors whenever they had a chance. One day, when a boat from the ship went on shore, a native ran off with one of the men's weapons. The sailors told the other natives, and the natives ran after the thief, brought him back, and gave him a good beating. The chiefs did all they could to help Tasman, and he was able to get



A DANCING GIRL IN THE  
SOUTH SEA ISLANDS.

fresh supplies of water for his ships as well as fresh food. In exchange for the presents he gave them he received 100 pigs, 150 fowls, and a great many coconuts, bananas, and other fruits and vegetables.

When Tasman left the Friendly Islands he sailed to the north-west and found another group of islands. He counted about twenty of them. We know now that they were some of the Fiji Islands. From there he sailed round the north of New Guinea (an island between three and four times as large as Great Britain), and at last, in the month of June, he arrived back in the Dutch East Indies, from which he had started ten months before.

Tasman had proved that Australia was surrounded by the sea, because he had sailed all round it ; but the only part of it which he had seen was the coast of Tasmania. People still knew very little about the size and the shape of Australia. They wanted to learn more about it, and in 1644 Tasman was sent on another voyage, with orders to sail along the coast.

On this voyage Tasman sailed for a long way along the north-west coast of Australia; but other parts of the coast remained unknown, and more than a hundred years passed before they were explored. Then a famous officer in the British Navy, named Captain James Cook, sailed all along the east coast of Australia. He also proved that New Zealand was divided into two main islands, and made many other discoveries in the South Seas. In the next story we shall read about his life.

## VII. THE VOYAGES OF CAPTAIN COOK

CAPTAIN James Cook, one of the most famous sailors that ever lived, had a very humble start in life. He was born in a little village in Yorkshire about two hundred years ago, in the year 1728. His parents were very poor people and lived in a small cottage built of mud. James had to earn his living at an early age. For some time he helped his father on a farm, but when he was seventeen years old he left his home and went to work in a grocer's shop in another village.

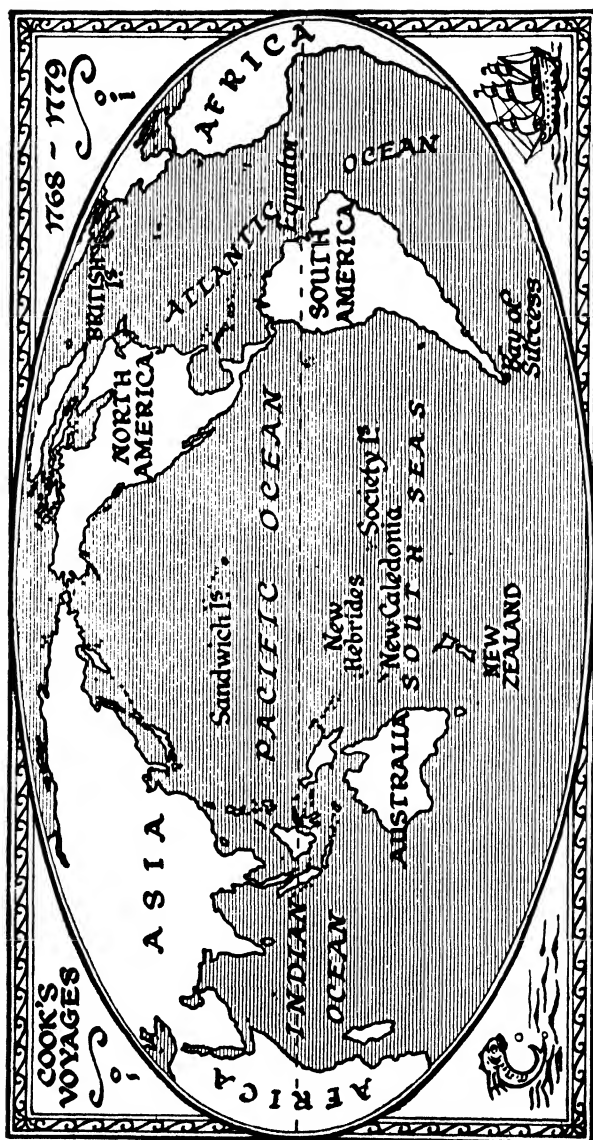
Now this shop was close to the sea, and James, watching the ships and hearing the tales of the old sailors, soon began to feel that he would rather be a sailor than a shopkeeper. After a time he was sent to sea in a ship which carried coal along the east coast of England. The life was very hard, but he liked it. He

became a clever sailor, and then joined the Royal Navy.

At that time good sailors were very much wanted in the Navy. Cook had always worked hard to learn all he could about ships and the sea, so that he quickly began to rise above the other sailors. For a long time his ship was away on the east coast of North America. While there he learned to draw maps to guide ships safely through waters in which they might have struck against rocks and been sunk.

At last there came a day when a leader was wanted for a voyage to the South Seas, and Cook was chosen. His task was to visit a certain group of islands in order to watch the stars, and then to sail towards the South Pole to see if he could find new land. He was made captain of a ship called the *Endeavour*, and sailed away from England in the month of August, 1768.

After three months at sea the ship reached the south end of South America. In a bay called the Bay of Success a party of officers



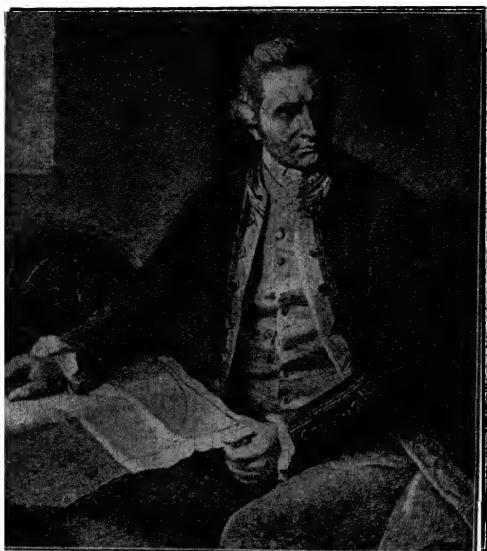
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and sailors went on land. Hoping to see the country better, they started to climb up some hills near the shore. Presently the weather turned very cold, and a heavy snowstorm came on. The cold made some of the sailors want to go to sleep, so a big fire was made. At the end of the day three men were still lost in the snow. During the night one of them was heard shouting, and he was brought in beside the fire. Next morning the other two were found frozen to death. Happily the weather cleared up, and the rest of the party returned safely to the ship.

From South America Captain Cook sailed westwards across the Pacific Ocean. For three months he and his men saw no land. Then one day they sighted a small island. Other islands were passed almost every day, and at last they reached one of the largest, which Captain Cook called King George's Island. Its native name was Tahiti, and that is the name by which it is now known. This was the island where Captain Cook had to watch the stars.

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Many natives came out in their canoes to meet the ship, bringing with them branches of trees as a sign that they were friendly. They brought fruit and vegetables, and were given



*By courtesy of the Royal Geographical Society.*

CAPTAIN COOK.

in exchange pieces of cloth and nails. One of the chiefs, who wanted to show that he was the special friend of Captain Cook, took off some of his clothes and put them on the captain.

The sailors soon found that the natives would steal anything they could, in spite of their friendliness. One day Captain Cook and some of his officers went for a walk on the island, leaving a tent with their belongings to be guarded by sentries. Suddenly the sound of a gun-shot was heard. Captain Cook hurried back, and found that one of the sentries had been pushed over by a native and his gun stolen. The officer in command of the sentries had ordered his men to fire, and the thief was shot, but the gun had not been given back. All the natives were very frightened and ran away. They soon became quite friendly again ; but Captain Cook took care to build a strong fort to prevent any more trouble.

When he had finished watching the stars, Captain Cook spent a month sailing among the islands, which he called the Society Islands. Then he sailed away towards the South Pole to try to find new land. Many people at that time thought that New Zealand was part of a great continent which stretched right across

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the South Pole to the other side of the world. Captain Cook looked carefully for the coast of this continent, but could find no sign of it. He came at last to New Zealand and found he could sail right round it, so proving that it was not part of a continent at all. Instead, he found that it was divided into two large islands.

From New Zealand Captain Cook sailed northwards to Australia. He was the first man to sail along the east coast of Australia and to draw a map of it. Once the ship ran on some rocks and was nearly wrecked, but they managed to get her off again and to mend the holes made by the rocks. Afterwards Captain Cook sailed round to the north coast, and from there found a way into the Indian Ocean. Then he sailed home to England round South Africa. He had been away nearly three years, and had sailed right round the world.

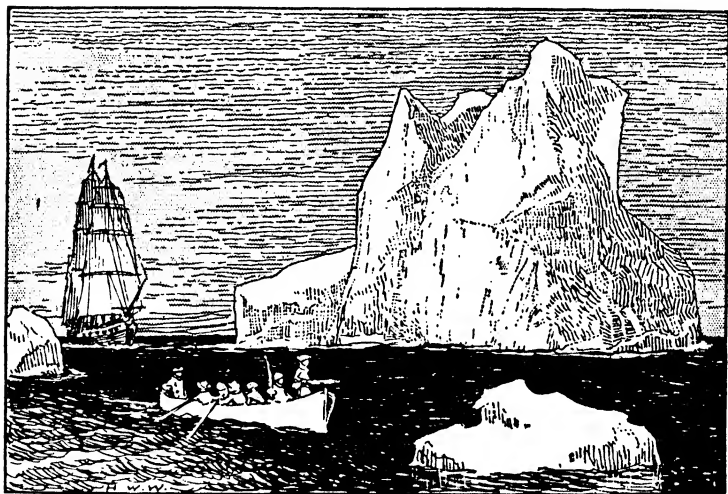
Captain Cook had not been back in England very long before he was chosen to make another voyage to the South Seas. People still believed

that there was a great continent beyond New Zealand which could be reached by ships, and Captain Cook was told to make another careful search for it. This time he was given two ships, named the *Resolution* and the *Adventure*. Captain Cook himself sailed in the *Resolution*.

The two ships left Plymouth Sound in July, 1772. Captain Cook sailed straight to the south, past Africa and into the great sea beyond. For seven days the ships were tossed about in a fierce storm. The weather became colder and colder, and the ships were at length stopped by a great mass of ice, to which the sailors could see no end. They sailed along the edge of the ice, but no land was seen. Soon another gale of wind sprang up and the ships lost sight of one another in a thick fog. Each ship sailed about trying to find the other. Captain Cook ordered guns to be fired and flares to be lit on his ship as signals; but no answer came, and when the weather cleared up the next day the *Adventure* was nowhere to be seen

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For three months Captain Cook sailed eastwards, and then he came to New Zealand. There he saw the *Adventure* safely in harbour. Together the ships set off to visit the Society



THE "RESOLUTION" AMONG THE ICEBERGS.

Islands, where Captain Cook had been on his first voyage. On the way back they were caught in a fierce storm, and they again lost sight of one another. This time Captain Cook could not find the *Adventure* anywhere. At last he gave up looking for her, and went on

with his voyage in the *Resolution*. He sailed south once more to see if he could find any sign of the great continent which was believed to be there. He made his way into the ice until the weather became so cold that icicles an inch long hung from the noses of the sailors, and the ship was covered with snow and ice ; but he could find no land, so he made up his mind to leave the icy waters and try to find new islands further north.

About this time Captain Cook was taken very ill. Every one in the ship was very sorry. The doctor watched over him for many days, and while doing so he himself fell ill and nearly died. Slowly the captain began to get better, and then fresh meat was wanted to give him strength. The only animal in the ship was a dog. This was killed and made into soup for him, and to the great joy of the sailors he became quite well again.

After sailing away from the ice, Captain Cook came upon some islands where the natives were very fierce and unfriendly. One island he

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called Savage Island. As soon as he landed, the natives came towards him and his men as though to attack them. Captain Cook ordered the sailors back to their boats, but the natives



MEN OF THE NEW HEBRIDES.

started to throw spears at them. One spear very nearly hit Captain Cook. He saw it coming and stooped down just in time to let it go over him.

A few weeks later Captain Cook visited some islands which he called the New Hebrides. One day he was in his cabin with some native chiefs when all at once he heard a great noise on deck. Rushing up to find out what was the matter, he saw that a native was just going to shoot one of the sailors with a bow and arrow. Captain Cook shouted to the native to stop. The native then turned his bow and arrow towards Captain Cook. He was stopped by a shot from

the captain's gun, but was not much hurt, and he again tried to shoot an arrow at Captain Cook. The captain then shot him again, and he quickly ran off. Some of the other natives began to aim arrows at the sailors; but when Captain Cook ordered one of the ship's cannon to be fired they were so frightened that they all jumped into the sea.

At another island Captain Cook and his men again had a narrow escape. They had gone in the ship's boats close to the shore, when the natives rushed into the water and seized hold of the boats to drag them on land. The sailors tried to beat them off, but they threw stones and spears, and several of the sailors were hurt. In the end, Captain Cook had to order his men to fire on the natives before they could be driven off.

After leaving the New Hebrides Captain Cook thought that he would visit New Zealand again before sailing back to England. On the way to New Zealand he found a large island which he called New Caledonia. Here the

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natives were shy and friendly, and allowed the sailors to go wherever they wished. From New Zealand Captain Cook sailed to South America, and then went home to England. In just over three years he had been round the



SOUTH SEA ISLANDER  
SPEARING FISH.

world again, but in the opposite direction to that followed on his first voyage. When he reached England he found that his other ship, the *Adventure*, had been home about a year. Her captain had sailed back when he lost sight of Captain Cook's ship the second time.

In 1776 Captain Cook started out on his third voyage. This time he was told to go to the northern part of the Pacific Ocean and try to find a water-way across North America from the Pacific to the Atlantic. He was given his old ship the *Resolution*, and another one called the *Discovery*.

When he reached the west coast of North

America Captain Cook soon found that the American Indians were not to be trusted any more than the South Sea natives. The Indians came out to the ships in their canoes, and at first they seemed very friendly. After a time one of the Indians grew bold enough to go on board the *Discovery*. There were only a few sailors about at the time, and the Indian, thinking that here was a chance to capture the ship, went back for his friends. Then a party of them climbed on board the ship with their knives drawn. But the sailors were too quick for them, and ran up on deck with their cutlasses, or swords. The Indians soon saw that the sailors' weapons were longer than theirs, so they scrambled back into their canoes.

Captain Cook sailed up the coast of North America until he could go no farther because of the ice in the sea. He could not find any water-way for ships across America, and he made up his mind to go to the South Seas to give the sailors a rest. Presently he came to some islands which he called the Sandwich

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Islands, where the natives were friendly and often visited the ships. After about a month Captain Cook sailed away from these islands but the ships had not been long at sea when they were caught in a storm and had to go back.

When the ships returned to the island where they had been staying, all was very quiet and hardly a canoe was to be seen. Captain Cook found that the native king and some of his chiefs were not very pleased to see the ships come back. First they tried to stop the sailors from getting water for the ships. Then some things were stolen, and in trying to get them back the sailors were attacked. The natives threw stones at them until they were forced to swim to some rocks to save themselves.

After this, the natives grew bolder, and during the night they stole a boat belonging to the ships. Captain Cook was very angry, and made ready to go on shore with a party of sailors to teach the natives a lesson. All the men had loaded guns, and Captain Cook also loaded his gun. He did not want to shoot the natives

he could help it, but he said he would burn all their canoes if his boat was not given back.

When he reached the shore, Captain Cook went straight to the king of the island. He wanted to take the king back to the ship, and to keep him prisoner until the boat was given up. The king, who was sitting down, rose to go, but some of his chiefs would not let him. Just then the natives heard that one of their chiefs had been killed by another party of sailors some distance away. This made the natives very angry indeed, and they began to put on their war dress.

One man went up to Captain Cook and threatened him with a large stone and an iron bar. As he became more quarrelsome, Captain Cook shot him, and then the natives all began to throw stones. Captain Cook fired again and killed a native. The sailors also fired; but before they could load their guns again the natives rushed at them, and four of them were killed. The other sailors were driven down to the edge of the water, and Captain Cook turned

round towards the sea to call to the men in the boats. As he did so, he was struck on the head and stabbed in the back. He fell on his face in the water, and the natives then rushed at him and stabbed him to death.

The rest of the party escaped to the ships. Captain Cook's body was cut up by the natives but most of it was afterwards taken on board the *Resolution* and buried at sea.

Thus ended the life of one of Britain's bravest sailors and greatest explorers. Many places in the South Seas are named after him and many fine monuments have been put in his honour. One of them is in St. James's Park, London, and there is another on Yorkshire moors, near to the place where he went to school as a poor boy.









